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Recent storm gives MetLife Stadium dress rehearsal for big game

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Matters of faith

Pentagon eases rules on waivers for religious practices

By Chris Carroll Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON clean shave and a boot-camp buzz cut are no longer mandatory for adherents of religions whose grooming practices differ from those traditionally required by the U.S. military. The Pentagon announced Wednesday that beards, turbans, religious body art and other previously off-limits

manifestations of spiritual devotion can now be allowed throughout the military. The policy also OKs other religious practices not related to appearance. In the past, servicemembers occasionally

managed to obtain exemptions to poli-

onstrates a compelling reason to deny the request The requests for religious accommodation should "re-flect sincerely held beliefs" and not damage military readiness, unit cohesion or good order and discipline, according to a revised Defense Department instruction on accommodation of religious practices.

The policy has its limits, but is designed to allow troops free expression of their religion, as required by Congress in the 2013 National Defense Authorization act, a spokesman said. Jews, Sikhs and Muslims in the military - who

together constitute less than 1 percent of the activeduty military, according to a DOD tally based to comply with their religions.



Report: DOD considers slashing commissaries budget

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department is reportedly discussing a \$1 billion cut over the next three years to the commissaries budget, which could lead to a widespread closure of stateside stores.

With the budget tightening, the Pen-

tagon's comptroller ordered the Defense

Commissary Agency to produce a plan to close most stateside commissaries.

According to a report on Military.com, the plan would close all but 24 rural stores stateside, while overseas stores would remain open.

The military services are reviewing the plan, according to a food industry official.

The commissary agency, which operates 247 stores worldwide, receives \$1.4 billion annually in taxpayer funding. The potential Defense Department cut would reduce the agency's budget over three years until it stood at \$400 million for fiscal 2017, Military.com reported.

SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 4

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He would probably be a guy I would like to hang out with if he wasn't president. But I like a lot of people who are not qualified to be president."

> - Joshua Parker, 37, a businessman in Smyrna, Tenn., on President Barack Obama

> > See story on Page 10

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MIDEAST

Keeping options open in Afghanistan

Defense officials: In lieu of security pact, NATO must remain flexible

By JOHN VANDIVER AND CID STANDIFER Stars and Stripes

NATO defense chiefs on Thursday said they expect alliance troops to switch to a post-2014 advise-and-assist mission as early as this summer even as U.S. and Afghan officials remain at loggerheads over a bilateral security agreement needed to ensure NATO's long-term presence in the country.

"We hope to be completely into the mission of train, advise and assist by mid-2014 and hope to be very near whatever we anticipate our size is for the next mission by October 2014," said Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme allied commander Europe.

In recent days, reports have indicated that U.S. commanders are recommending a post-2014 troop presence of

either 10.000 troops none at all.

Failure to resolve a dispute between the UnitedStates and Afghan President Hamid Kar-



bilateral security agreement for troops operating in the country after 2014 could jeopardize plans for a continued U.S. presence and NATO's follow-on training mission in Afghanistan.

Karzai has flouted demands by the U.S. and even some of his close aides to sign the agreement quickly so plans can be made for establishing a follow-on mission. U.S. officials have suggested they could withdraw completely by the end of the year, if the agreement is not signed soon.

The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that Western diplomats in Kabul have largely given



U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove is seen during an interview with Stars and Stripes in May 2013.

up hone Karzai will sign the BSA particularly given his reaction to a Taliban-claimed attack last week on a Lebanese restaurant popular with foreigners in which 21 people were killed, 13 of them foreigners. Karzai extended some pro forma condolences, then launched into criticism of a recent NATO airstrike that killed Afghan civilians.

The Journal quoted some Western diplomats as saying a NATO Status of Forces Agreement currently being negotiated could be easier for Karzai to sign. That agreement, which would lav out the terms of any mission that would succeed the International Security Assistance Force when it ends this year, could then cover the U.S. as a member of NATO, the Journal quoted diplomats as saying.

But NATO officials have emphasized that the U.S.-Afghan pact is key to a NATO agreement.

NATO defense chiefs, who were in Brussels for two days of talks on a range of security matters facing the alliance, said it would be helpful to have a bilateral security agreement in place "sooner rather than later." Officials stopped short of issuing deadlines.

"The sooner we have a BSA, the better off we will be," Breedlove said during a news conference "But we will remain flexible and be able to adapt to the timing and the agreement when we get it."

In the months ahead NATO will be steadily drawing down in Afghanistan. The U.S. could feasibly stay in-country on the same legal basis it used to invade in 2001, a mandate from the U.N. Security Council, said Michael Keating, a former deputy envoy to Afghanistan for the United Nations and now an analyst at the think tank Chatham House.

The mandate was most recently renewed in October to extend the ISAF through the end of 2014.

Without a BSA, Keating said, the U.S. presence would remain at the whim of whatever Afghan government succeeds Karzai in "Politically, I think there's still

scope for flexibility," Keating said. "The problem is, logistically, whether that's a good enough basis to plan. "Politically, I think it is possi-

ble to still plan on the U.S. and its partners having a military presence," he said.

Kamran Bokhari, vice president for the Middle East and South Asia department at the geopolitical intelligence firm STRATFOR. said that if Karzai doesn't sign the BSA, it's almost certain his successor will, and some candidates have already voiced support for the agreement.

If Karzai begins to fear the U.S. will simply walk away, he'll probably cave, fearing for his place in Afghan history. Bokhari said.

Added Keating: "Most Afghans - obviously the Taliban not included - but most Afghans I think would prefer for the U.S. and its partners to maintain some kind of minimum military capacity.

During a press briefing Thursday, Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, ISAF joint commander, talked up the Afghan National Security Forces, saying that they were overwhelmingly successful during the summer fighting season and that the Taliban were sure to fail in any quest to regain political power.

"(It is) widely recognized that they can only destroy," Milley said. "They can kill, they can intimidate, they can blow up a Lebanese restaurant," but they have proven unable to build institutions, he said.

In Kabul, which leans heavily away from Taliban support, many agree, but with a note of fear rather than optimism.

"I think the United States force es should be in Afghanistan," said an economics student at Kabul University, Mukhtar Ekhtiar. "I want (Karzai) to sign (the BSA). With them, we will promote and develop in our country more than alone. Without, we will start a new civil war in our country.'

Stars and Stripes reporter Alex Pena contributed to this report. vandiver.john@stripes.com standifer.cid@stripes.com



MIDEAST

SIGAR: Afghan reconstruction funds go unspent

By HEATH DRUZIN Stars and Strines

KABUL - The Pentagon asked for \$60 million in additional funds for reconstruction projects in Afghanistan this year even though American forces have spent only a fraction of the hundreds of millions of tax dollars allotted already. The top U.S. government watchdog in Afghanistan wants to know why.

An analysis by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction found that over the past six fiscal years, only 59 percent of funds appropriated for the Commander's Emergency Response Program were used.

In fiscal 2013, the Department of Defense obligated only \$43.5 million of \$200 million appropriated for the military reconstruction fund, yet, the DOD requested an additional \$60 million for the fund for 2014. It received half of that from Congress.

A letter from Special Inspector General John Sopko to the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, the secretary of the Army and the DOD comptroller requests an explanation for the disparity in requests and actual money spent.

Sopko said his office needs the information to prepare its part of a congressionally mandated "lessons learned report."

"SIGAR also needs to examine these issues to protect ongoing and future CERP projects from waste, fraud, and abuse," the let-



MARK Ray/Courtesy of the US Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials meet with Afghan technicians at the Kajaki Dam power house in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

ter said, requesting explanations as to why the allocated funds were not spent and why additional funds were then requested. He also asked whether expired funds from past years were "reprogrammed for other purposes or returned to the U.S. Treasury."

He also asked that certain documentation be provided to his office within 30 days, including a monthly breakdown of funds obligated and spent from the start of fiscal 2004 through December 2013 and an unclassified list of all CERP projects during that period.

Jeff Hawk, a spokesman for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, declined to comment. "We have received the letter and are reviewing its contents," he said.

"There are likely many reasons why these funds were not used," Sopko wrote. "For example, the accelerated U.S. troop drawdown may have reduced the need for these funds, or military commanders may have reduced the cost of various projects through effective oversight.

"Another factor may have been

to give."

the overarching challenge of budgeting for small-scale reconstruction projects in an unpredictable conflict zone plagued by violence, corruption, and sustainability challenges," Sopko wrote.

Funding for the reconstruction program was established in 2003 to allow local military commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan to quickly implement small-scale humanitarian relief and reconstruction projects, generally less than \$500,000 each, partly as a stop-gap until larger reconstruction projects were planned.

lion was appropriated for such projects in Afghanistan and about \$1.7 billion was spent, according to a SIGAR chart. It shows that at the height of the U.S. military surge in 2010, \$1 billion was appropriated for those small-scale reconstruction projects in the country, though only about \$330 million was spent.

The program has come in for criticism in the past. A 2011 report by the Department of De-fense Inspector General found that U.S. Central Command and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan had inadequate oversight over emergency response reconstruction projects, leading to overpayments and improper payments.

International reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan have been controversial and often criticized for alleged lack of oversight and coordination with Afghan counterparts. While there have been tangible improvements in education, health care and life expectancy in Afghanistan over the course of the more than 12-year war, the county remains one of the poorest in the world and large, foreign-funded infrastructure projects - like the still unfinished Kajaki Dam — have had mixed success.

The U.S. has spent an estimated \$100 billion rebuilding Afghanistan since American forces invaded the country in October, 2001

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S. Dakota woman returning to teach in Afghanistan

By NATHAN JOHNSON (Yankton S.D.) Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. - Although faced with uncertainty about the future of the school that employs her in Afghanistan, Katie Watt is certain she wants to get back to teaching

Watt, 22, was recently home in Yankton, S.D., for the holiday break after wrapping up her first semester of teaching third grade at the International School of Kabul, which is the only fully accredited, coeducational, international K-12 school in Afghanistan.

"I'm excited, but I'm more nervous going back this time," Watt told the Press & Da kotan. "I don't know why. I think it's just because we don't know what is going to happen in the next five months with the status of the school.'

Among the issues that could have an impact on the school's future are funding problems, the April 5 presidential election and the impending decision by Afghanistan leadership about whether to agree to a bilateral security agreement with the United States that would allow more than 8,000 U.S. troops to stay beyond the end of the year.

Watt said her class of 21 has declined to

"People don't know what is going to happen next year, so the people who can leave are starting to leave," she said. "They know that if things go poorly, they want to be out of the country on their own terms."

The uncertain future hasn't prevented Watt from deciding that she will commit to another year at the school.

"That's one of the first things our kids ask us when they come into the classroom: 'Are you going to come back next year?" she said. "It kind of shows how much they appreciate us being there but maybe don't want to invest in you if they don't think you'll be coming back. When I saw their faces, it wasn't as hard of a decision to

'l'm excited. but I'm more nervous

this time. Katie Watt third-grade teacher at the

going back

come back.' During the first se mester, Watt said she observed growth in herself and the students.

"After four years of education, you'd think you'd be really prepared, but you're really not because they can't teach you how to bounce back when things go poorly in a lesson or students don't behave." School of Kabul she said. "Classroom management has got-

ten much easier, as has lesson planning. The students have been changing, too. They've been learning. The children who fight have been fighting less. That's really encouraging. I don't know if I could stay if I hadn't seen a change in their attitudes and academics

ISK has been attempting to raise money for a new location because it currently has to rent facilities at a high price, according

Furthermore, many of the students who attend ISK depend on its Tuition Assistance Program. Annually, the school awards more than \$200,000 in scholarships. A large portion of that funding is in danger and could result in the loss of more than 100 students, Watt said. As a fundraising effort, ISK recently

broke a world record for cutting out the longest paper doll chain. The ISK wanted to get a dollar for each of the 100,000 dolls. "It was cool for the kids. They really thought it was a neat thing," Watt said. "We were hoping to raise \$100,000 and we only raised \$12,000. We got the word out as

much as possible, but no one really wanted Parents and local leadership are supportive of ISK, and Watt said hope is not lost.

I think things like this have happened a lot in the school's history. Somehow, something always pulls through," she said. "We have the support of staff that have been there seven or eight years saying, 'This looks really bad, but something will likely work out."

"If it doesn't, if we still feel like we're led to be there, something will pull together, Watt said, "I think it's easier for those of us who are new to have optimism when we're looking into it, because we haven't been there as long and haven't been discouraged as many times."

Watt said it has been somehow easier to maintain optimism in Afghanistan than when she was back in Yankton.

"Being in Afghanistan and looking toward the future is not as scary," she said. Watt writes a blog to keep friends and family updated on her experiences at http://

misswatt.blogspot.com.

KELLY HERTZ, (YANKTON S.D.) PRESS & DAKOTA Katie Watt is faced with uncertainty about

the future of the school that employs her in Afghanistan, but she is certain she wants to get back to teaching there.

comments from stripes.com



Allowing religious practices

The Pentagon announced that beards, turbans, religious body art and other previously offlimits manifestations of spiritual devotion are allowed throughout the military. The policy also OKs other religious practices not related to appearance.

Readers respond:

If the Pentagon feels that beards should be allowed for some, than they should be allowed for all. - Ian Rogers

You want to grow a beard. He HAS to grow a beard. That's the difference.

- AaronFreed

if you can't follow a military dress code because of your religious values how the hell could you kill US enemies in spite of them?

- Sunnydaze

funny how a tattoo would be bad on the hands or neck but not beards and turbans

- sgtsam2005

People who choose do this will alienate themselves from other service members

- stephen michaels

I applaud the military for amending their standards to be more inclusive to religious minorities.

- Krissy Aldrich

To some faiths, having a beard or having the requisite headgear is as organic as prayer or taking communion is to others

— bumbul

I wonder how this will affect promotions for Officers, E-7 and above. I can see the panel looking at the service members picture and they have a full grown beard.

— David Winters

I have been in the Army for quite a few years, ... I truly believe in its purpose and mission, but I do not understand why the military bends to the ideals of other groups

- 18+ years and still going

Uniformed Military, Doesn't anyone understand what that means? We dress alike, shave alike, and wear the same cover.

- jim foreman

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/grooming

Say what? | Faith: Requests conflicting with DOD policy need waiver

"When requests for accommodation are made, the needs of the requesting servicemember are balanced against the needs of mission accomplishment," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Christensen wrote in an email. "Only if it is determined that the needs of mission accomplishment outweigh the needs of the servicemember may the request be

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in December sent a letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel about department policies it said "may result in the unnecessary exclusion of Sikh Americans and Americans of other religious faiths from military service based on their religious beliefs manifested in their dress

and grooming."
Requests for accommodation that don't conflict with standing DOD policies - such as allowing troops to engage in prayers required by their religions throughout the day - can be dealt with immediate commanders, Christensen said.

Other requests that butt up against existing policies, such as the wearing of beards or headgear, will need waivers issued by military department secretaries or by military officers no lower than heads of personnel and manpower for each service.

A group of high-ranking mili-

tary chaplains and officials from DOD and religious organizations that work with troops will appear Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee to discuss the Pentagon's implementation of legislation requiring the



Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan checks the seal on his gas mask before entering the gas chamber during nuclear, biological and chemical training in 2010.

military to make religious accommodations for servicemembers. Reaction to the policy Wednes-

day was diverse and intense. Rabbi Sanford Dresin, director of military programs at the Aleph Institute, a Jewish nonprofit organization that advocates for military members and prisoners, said he was surprised and cheered by the new policy. The institute re-

battle to win a Jewish chaplain's right to wear a full beard. "If this is all true, I'm ecstatic to say the least," he said. "I think it demonstrates sensitivity and respect for multiculturalism '

cently waged a successful legal

Dresin said he was gearing up

to contend with the Marine Corps over the right of Jewish Marines to wear varmulkes, headwear many Jews feel their religion requires them to wear. He said he hopes the new policy makes the effort unnecessary.

Dresin, a chaplain endorser for DOD, said it also would make recruiting Jewish chaplains easier

'There remains a shortage of Jewish chaplains in the military and I feel that I will be able to provide additional chaplains if

this is the case," he said.

Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation — which battles what he describes as fundamentalist

Christian domination of the mili tary - said the relatively small numbers of non-Christian practitioners who benefit from the new rules would be dwarfed by the number of Christians who use it as cover to try to impose their belief system

DOD will find it harder to fight the spread of homophobia, anti-Islam sentiment, misogyny and anti-Semitism with the new policy, he predicted.

"Far from this being all about beards and turbans for Sikhs or yarmulke for Jewish personnel, I am concerned over a potential for a new tsunami of fundamentalist Christian oppression and tyranny from superiors to their subordinates," Weinstein said.

Ron Crews, executive director of the Chaplains Alliance for Religious Liberty, an evangelical group that often takes issue with Weinstein, welcomed the ruling.

He said the organization's members are concerned that with recent changes in DOD policies governing open service of gays in the military and allowing benefits for same-sex spouses, they would be limited in expressing their faith's teachings on homosexuality. The new ruling provides some assurance, he said.

"Our initial response is that we are grateful that DOD is taking seriously Section 533 that was passed in the FY13 NDAA," he said. "And we're wanting to make sure that military members are able to exercise their religious liberties without any fear of recrimination."

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Budget: Full cut of \$1B would not be included until 2017

FROM FRONT PAGE

Starting with the fiscal 2015 budget, Congress would be forced to find funding elsewhere and to give the Defense Department more than its requested commissary budget, or to allow officials to make sweeping changes to the commissary system, including potential closures.

"If DeCA's budget is cut to such a magnitude, it would ultimately require DeCA to close stores or change the way it delivers the commissary benefit," a source with knowledge of the proposed cuts told Military.com. "But those options would mean military families would have to pay more for their groceries, significantly reducing the non-pay compensation benefit provided through the commissaries. Once again, military families are being forced to sacrifice their hard-earned money to achieve deficit reductions by having their benefits reduced or eliminated "

DeCA's \$1.4 billion annual budget funds employee salaries, utilities and pays for food to be shipped overseas. A congressionally mandated 5 percent surcharge on all commissary sales pays for other operational costs such as construction and building maintenance

A recent study by DeCA found that using the commissary saves shoppers an average of 30.5 percent annually when compared with shopping at other stores off

Cuts would be incremental and would appear in the department's 2015 budget request, expected to be released next month. The full \$1 billion cut would not be included in the request until 2017, sources told Military.com.

The White House and the Office of Management and Budget need to approve the fiscal 2015 budget, and it's unclear how such a plan would fare in discussions there. In August at Camp Pendleton, Calif., President Barack Obama told Marines that closing commissaries is "not how a great nation should be treating its military and military families.

At a November hearing of the House armed services subcommittee on military personnel, its chairman, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., asked DeCA Director Joseph Jeu about a directive that the agency got from defense leaders in February ordering an independent study on cutting commissary costs up to 28 percent.

"Due to sequestration, the department is reviewing all of its programs and nothing, including commissaries, is off the table, Jeu said.

In the hearing, Jeu declined to discuss the directive or the study. Another witness did. Thomas

T. Gordy, president of the Armed Forces Marketing Council, which represents brokers who do business with military stores, testified that his group was encouraged during the summer to hear that the department was considering cuts for DeCA of less than 28 percent.

"However, in recent weeks, we understand the Joint Staff has asked DeCA to look at cutting its budget 33 to 66 percent" he said.

The DOD would only confirm that in an effort to save money, all options are on the table.

We have not finalized our 2015 budget submission, so we do not speak to any predecisional assessments or evaluations," said Joy Crabaugh, a spokeswoman for the personnel and readiness office of the assistant secretary of defense. "As we face a continued fiscally constrained environment, we're looking at all options for cost-cutting and money saving. ... All options are on the table, but we cannot speak to any of those that we're looking at until we finalize our decision and submit

our budget.'



Singer claims surgery botched at Army post

By Brett Barrouquere The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A singer with the Nashville Opera Company is suing the federal government, saying a botched childbirth operation at a military post has caused flatulence and incontinence and has threatened her

career.

Amy Herbst and her husband, former Army Staff Sgt. James Herbst, claim a nurse-midwife at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Ky., caused her injuries during the birth of her son in February 2012 when the nurse performed an episiotomy to enlarge the birth

opening

The couple, who live in Cincinnati, claims the nurse made the incision during the second stage of Herbst's labor, without informing Herbst or getting her consent. During a follow-up visit, another nurse told Herbst attempts to repair the incision had been unsuccessful.

Herbst alleges she is unable to work as a professional opera singer as a result of incontinence and

excessive gas, the lawsuit says. Laura Boyd, a spokeswoman for the hospital, said in an email that the Army hasn't had a chance to review the complaint and that it would be inappropriate to comment on a pending lawsuit.

An attorney for Herbst, Charles M. Allen, of Glen Allen, Va., said in an email that Herbst will not be able to perform until the injury is repaired by surgery. The couple have delayed the surgery until they decide whether to have

more children, Allen said. The Nashville Opera Company's website indicates Herbst is a mezzo-soprano. Allen said she performed in "Madame Butterfly" in October 2012, a role she was able to manage because there were a limited number of performances.

"Her incontinence makes performing with any regularity im-

possible," he wrote.
Her husband was a soldier at Fort Campbell, on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line, at the time but has since left the Army. He is a senior security engineer in Cincinnati, Allen said.

Under the concept of sovereign immunity, in which the government may not be sued without its permission for acts taken on behalf of it, most people have high legal hurdles to cross to bring a lawsuit. Under Federal Tort Claims Act, the government has waived sovereign immunity if a tortious act of a federal employee causes damage.

The couple is seeking \$2.5 million in damages and costs. The Herbsts filed the suit Jan. 16 in federal court in Cincinnati.

Engineer indicted in transfer of jet data

By W.J. HENNIGAN Los Angeles Times

Customs agents in Long Beach, Calif., opened boxes labeled "House Hold Goods" bound for Iran and found thousands of documents outlining secret information on a \$392 billion fighter jet program.

The technical manuals, specification sheets and other proprietary material was being sent by Mozaffar Khazaee, a former engineer with military jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney, to the city of Hamadan in northwest Iran authorities said.

Iran, authorities said.

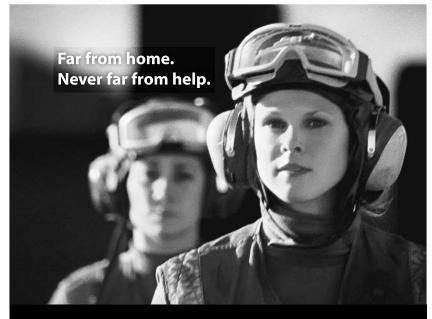
A federal grand jury indicted Khazaee, 59, Tuesday on two counts of interstate transportation of stolen property. He faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

In an affidavit summarizing the evidence against Khazaee, a special agent from the Department of Homeland Security said the government found 44 boxes of material that contained technical data on military engines and the largest weapons program in history, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter:

"The documents contained language regarding the technical specifications of the JSF engine program, as well as diagrams, blueprints and other documentation relating to the inner workings of the jet's engine," the affidavit by special agent Breanne Chavez said.

"Several of the documents also bore markings indicating that they were the property of at least three defense contractors," it said. The companies are identified only as A, B and C.

Matthew C. Bates, spokesman at Pratt & Whitney, confirmed that his company is part of the investigation.



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Kadena families fearful of contamination

Warnings trump assurances over tainted barrels

By Travis J. Tritten AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA Stars and Strines

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa -The ongoing Japanese recovery of herbicide- and dioxin-tainted barrels just outside Kadena Air Base alarmed hundreds of residents this week who fear for the safety of children at adjacent onbase schools.

After seven months of testing, Japan's government has found no indication of wider soil or water contamination, and the Air Force has said base drinking water is

Those results were less than reassuring for Kadena residents, whose fears were fueled by dire warnings from an advocate for victims of herbicide contamination. They sought more informarallied on Facebook and petitioned for a town hall meeting as word spread that drums with dioxin residue are buried within sight of the schools.

Twenty-two empty Dow Chemical drums have been unearthed since June, and another 11 unidentified containers have been detected but remain buried at the Japanese soccer field, which is separated from Kadena's Amelia Earhart Intermediate School and its playground by a raised expressway. The Bob Hope Prima-ry School and the Kadena middle and high schools are nearby.

The Web group of concerned residents ballooned with more than 400 new members Thursday. Some reported health problems after moving from the Air Force base. Parents wondered about pulling children out of school or forcing them to drink only bottled water.

"The thought went through my head to home-school but I also did not want to do anything sudden," said Sheri King, whose 8-year-old daughter goes to Bob Hope Primary School. "I have sent her with bottled water ... I am not sure what I'll do next week, I'll probably send her with bottled

All three levels of the Japanese government — Okinawa City, the prefecture and the Ministry of Defense — have conducted individual testing on the drum residue as well as soil and water in the area.

The results found potentially dangerous chemical traces inside and immediately around the discarded drums. Soil and water samples collected from across the soccer field were found to be

Okinawa Prefecture also conducted water tests on two wells on Kadena and the base watershed at the ocean and detected no dangerous levels of pollution.

Okinawa City and the Min-istry of Defense separated the soccer field into 23 sections and performed independent pollution



Survey stakes mark the Japanese soccer field where buried drums containing herbicide and dioxin residue were found, while children play outside nearby Amelia Earhart Intermediate School on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa,

tests on each one. The city and ministry samples were analyzed by separate labs and both found the soil posed no danger.

The tests appear to be a strong indicator that the chemical pollution has not spread to the rest of the soccer field or surrounding areas. A full survey of the soccer field is not expected to be completed until March, the ministry

Still, substances found at the site can pose serious risks to human health.

Samples from inside the barrels contained highly toxic dioxin, which can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, immune system damage and hormone imbalances, according to the World Health Organization. Testing also found the herbicide 2,4,5-trichloro-

phenoxyacetic acid, which was an ingredient in U.S. defoliants but was discontinued due to health concerns.

Debate flared over whether the drums could be evidence of Agent Orange, a Vietnam-era defoliant contaminated with dioxin that the U.S. claims was never present on Okinawa. Dow Chemical, a producer of the wartime herbicide, said the unearthed 30gallon drums were never used for Agent Orange. One U.S. expert said they likely contained base garage and hospital waste.

Local concerns over the buried drums were ignited again last month by Agent Orange victims' Heather Bowser, who warned Kadena residents in a letter to the Japan Times newspaper that dioxin in "nearby water was 840 times safe limits" — quoting from recent reports in that paper. She said base children may be susceptible to "chronic B-cell leukemias, diabetes mellitus type 2, multiple myeloma, Parkinson's disease, prostate cancer and respiratory cancers.'

Bowser, who was born with multiple birth defects and is cofounder and national coordinator of the Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance, told Stars and Stripes that Kadena parents have a right to know about the findings outside the fence - and whether there is any pollution on the school grounds. The unearthed drums were first reported in Stars and Stripes in June.

'I believe there is a danger of having an openly contaminated area near schools," she said. "As a parent myself, it is better to be safe than sorry.'

That sentiment echoed across Kadena this week. By Thurs-day, many fearful parents and

information on pollution risks as the defense school district and the Air Force offered some assurances but few details.

"We are aware of the situation and we are working very closely with the military to gather the facts," Department of De-fense Education Activity-Pacific spokesman Charly Hoff said.

The school district deferred questions to the Air Force, saying it has the environmental expertise to handle any testing and evaluation of pollution risks

The Air Force has released statements saying its environmental department has found base tap water safe to drink. It did not immediately respond to a Stars and Stripes request for water and soil testing results for the on-base school properties.

The lack of information on the pollution at the soccer field was the biggest frustration for some. Posters on the Facebook page wrote that official statements so far were unconvincing, and they pointed to the decades of pollution in drinking water at Camp LeJeune, N.C., as proof of the stakes.

"People are starting to panic a little bit because they don't know what is going on," said Jennifer Hall, a Marine spouse and member of the group who said her child is slated to attend a Kadena school in the future. "I don't know what the effects are of the barrels."

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Army ends relationship with veteran-owned firm securing Germany bases

By MATT MILLHAM Stars and Strings

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. Army has picked German company Sicherheit Nord to provide security at its installations in Germany, a move that will effectively end the service's decadeslong relationship with the veteran-owned Pond Security.

On Jan. 2, the Army awarded Sicherheit Nord a \$322 million, multiyear security guard contract that a company executive said will be among the firm's biggest. Sicherheit Nord already provides a similar service at German military bases around the country.

Installation Management Command-Europe, which oversees security at Army posts and the guard contract, has yet to announce the change.

A spokeswoman for the Army contracting unit that issued the award verified that the Sicherheit Nord contract is a done deal. Executives from both Pond Security and Sicherheit Nord acknowledged that they've already started planning for the changeover, scheduled for the end of May.

According to contracting documents posted on the U.S. government's Federal Business Opportunities website, the duration of the contract will not exceed 59 months. The guards will man the gates of all U.S. Army installations in Germany, a job currently

carried out by Pond Security.

The award comes as a major blow to Pond, whose soon-to-expire Army contract accounts for about 80 percent of the company's business, according to Managing Director Daniel Pond.

Pond, a U.S. Army veteran, started his company in 1983 with 12 guards. He gradually picked up more and more work with the Army, eventually becoming the sole provider of contract security for the services' posts in Germany.

Pond still has a contract with the U.S. Air Force and various commercial accounts. But at the end of May, "I'll be out of the Army," he said.

It's not clear yet whether his guards will face the same fate.

Pond said he's advised his staff to sign on with the new company. But Sicherheit Nord's managing director, Sven Wackerhagen, said his company doesn't need Pond's help finding guards.

"We have already many people who will do the job," Wackerhagen said.

But the guards already manning the Army's gates "are very welcome to apply with us," he said. "They are trained already, which is good for us."

For his part, Pond said he doesn't know how Sicherheit Nord could find enough qualified guards without hiring from his staff.

"There's just nobody out there,"



BEN BLOKER/Stars and Stripes

Daniel Pond, founder and managing director of Pond Security, speaks in his Erlensee, Germany, office in 2007.

Pond said.

Guards on the Army contract are required to speak English and have to pass physical fitness and drug tests as well as background checks. "When we try to recruit now, maybe from 100 telephone calls, we get maybe 10 or 15 people who are qualified," Pond said.

Wackerhagen said Sicherheit Nord plans to start with about 1,200 guards – roughly 600 fewer than Pond said he employs on the current contract. Sicherheit Nord would increase gradually to a maximum of about 1,500 guards, according to Wackerhagen.

It's unclear whether Sicherheit Nord will match Pond's salaries. Wackerhagen said Sicherheit Nord will pay "at least tariff" an agreement that sets minimum wages and salaries for employees in particular industries throughout Germany.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report. millham.matthew@stripes.com Twitter: @mattmillham

Report: Training misstep caused Marines' deaths

By Allen G. Breed AND MICHAEL BIESECKER The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — An explosion that killed seven Camp Lejeune Marines during a nighttime training exercise was the result of human error and insufficient training, according to the results of a military investigation.

Lt. Ådam Flores, a spokesman for the Lejeune-based 2nd Marine Division, said Wednesday that the investigation found the deadly March 18 explosion was triggered when a Marine dropped a second round into an already-loaded mortar tube during a live-fire exercise. Two officers and a noncommissioned officer were relieved of command following the explosion at Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

Those killed ranged in age from 19 to 26. Seven additional Marines and a Navy sailor also were wounded in the blast.

The investigation determined that the 60 mm mortar functioned properly and that the weapon sys-

tem is safe when used as designed by properly trained Marines. Marine officials said last year that the explosion was the result of "human error," but did not provide details of what caused the blast.

Flores said Wednesday that the Marines were firing the 60 mm mortar in "manual mode," meaning someone had to pull a trigger to set off the round. The weapon also can be set up in a fixed position and fired by simply dropping a round down the tube.

"There was a round that was already in and they had begun to feed the second round in before the first mortar (round) had been fired." Flores said.

The Marine investigation concluded that four factors contributed to the tragedy: inadequate training and preparation for the complexity of the exercise; improper mortar gunnery commands and firing procedures; a "perceived sense of urgency and resultant haste" during the exercise; and a systemic lack of supervision.

US troops not affected by major data theft in S. Korea

By Ashley Rowland Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. troops appear to have been unaffected by the massive theft of personal data from three major South Korean credit card companies that has affected tens of millions and led to calls to overhaul information protection measures.

U.S. Forces Korea said Thursday that its Client Legal Services has received no reports of servicemembers or dependents having their South Korean financial data stolen.

Prosecutors announced earlier this month that an employee working for an outsourcing firm for Lotte Card and the credit card divisions of NongHyup Financial Group and KB Financial Group had leaked data from 104 million accounts.

According to South Korea's Yonhap News, the employee of the Korea Credit Bureau, a personal credit ratings agency, was indicted along with two others for illegally obtaining confidential data while working as temporary consultants.

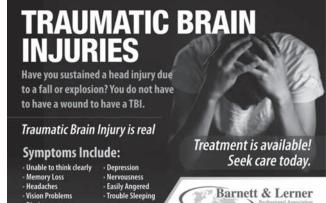
The Financial Services Commission on Monday said no cases of damage resulting from the theft had been reported. Because the stolen information did not include credit card passwords or CVC codes, the commission said it was unlikely the data could be used for financial fraud.

News of the data breach has caused something of a panic in this heavily wired country of 49 million, where it is common for people to hold multiple credit cards. Local media reported worried customers had jammed phone lines and overwhelmed bank websites. Millions had canceled or suspended credit card accounts or requested new cards.

The scandal has led to the resignations of financial executives and promises by the government to toughen penalties for leaking personal information, in addition to new measures meant to protect data handling by financial firms, according to news reports.

USPK said legal services can offer assistance to those facing legal difficulties related to identity theft and can advise clients on how to get a free copy of their credit. To schedule a legal consultation, call DSN 738-811 tation, call DSN 738-8110.

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2 Marines posthumously awarded the Navy Cross

By JON HARPER Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - Two Marine Corps special operators were posthumously awarded the Navy Cross on Saturday for their actions during an insider attack in Afghanistan.

Capt. Matthew P. Manoukian and Staff Sgt. Sky R. Mote were assigned to the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion in support of Operating Enduring Freedom when they came under hostile fire from an Afghan police officer inside their tactical operations center in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Aug. 10, 2012, according to a Marine Corps press release

Manoukian, the team com-mander, and Mote, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, each received the Navy Cross because they intentionally exposed themselves to hails of gunfire to enable their comrades to escape the shooter.

Manoukian, 29, from Los Altos

Hills, Calif., was working in the operations center when AK-47 assault rifle bullets ripped through the walls and partitions of the operations room. He immediately ordered his Marines to move out of harm's way as he engaged the enemy. After another Marine was critically wounded, Manoukian made himself the shooter's pri-mary target to protect other Marines. He continued engaging the enemy, despite being outgunned, until he was mortally wounded, according to a Marine Corps account of the assault.

"Manoukian courageously drew heavy fire upon himself, disrupting the enemy pursuit of his comrades and providing them the security needed to get to safe ty, ultimately saving their lives,"

the Marine Corps said. During the rampage, Mote, 27, from El Dorado, Calif., stepped forward and attracted the shooter's attention, which halted the enemy's pursuit of other Marines. He remained exposed and engaged the shooter who was only

5 yards away. Mote kept up the attack, despite having been shot, until he was killed, according to a Marine Corps description of Mote's actions.

"Mote's heroic and selfless actions halted the enemy assault on his teammates enabling their escape, which ultimately forced the enemy to withdraw. Mote's selfless act safeguarded his comrades from being killed or in-jured," the Marine Corps said in the press release.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Jeschke, 31, of Herndon, Va., was also killed in the attack according to the Defense Department.

The Afghan gunman fled the scene and joined the Taliban, according to reports.

The incident in which Manoukian and Mote earned their awards for bravery was just one of many involving Afghan police and army personnel turning their guns on U.S. servicemembers and NATO forces. There were 44 insider attacks in 2012 alone, and they resulted in 61 coalition



deaths. Those 61 fatalities constituted 15 percent of total coalition deaths that year, according to the Long War Journal, which compiles statistics related to the war in Afghanistan.

The U.S. military referred to those incidents as "green on blue" attacks. The alarming rate of occurrence eventually compelled commanders to implement a series of new security procedures in the latter part of 2012 to mitigate the risk. The number of insider attacks has declined significantly since the measures were put in

The Navy Cross is the secondhighest award for valor that a Marine can receive, just below the Medal of Honor. It is rarely given



Staff Sgt. Sky R. Mote

out, and must be approved by the Secretary of the Navy before being awarded. Only 16 Marines, including Mote and Manoukian. have received the Navy Cross for actions undertaken during Operation Enduring Freedom. In the seven-year history of Marine Special Operations Command. only two other Marines attached to MARSOC have received the award, according to the Marine Corns

Major Gen. Mark Clark, the commander of MARSOC, presented the awards to the families of Manoukian and Mote during a ceremony Saturday at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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Sexual assault prevention, response training: What works, what doesn't?

By JENNIEER HLAD Stars and Stripes

SAN DIEGO - As the head of the Navy's 21st Century Sailor Office talks to sailors about what sexual assault prevention and response training works and what doesn't, a clear theme has emerged: No one likes Power-Point presentations.

Sailors are very positive about small group training, actors demonstrating different scenarios and how to respond, new videos targeted to specific environments in the Navy and other types of training, said Rear Adm. Sean Buck. But computer-based training and PowerPoint productions are not high on anyone's list.

Buck said he has had "phenomenal response" when he asks sailors about sexual assault pre-vention training. "Nobody's shy about this topic," he said. "It was very heartening to me to see how well informed they were about sexual assault and preventing it, as well as how passionate they are to get this problem out of our

Buck last week kicked off a sixmonth world tour of Navy bases in San Diego, where he met with sailors and talked about the variety of programs his office covers.

The 21st Century Sailor Office covers a range of readiness and resiliency programs that encompass "the total fitness of the sailor," Buck said, including sexual assault prevention and response. suicide prevention, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, sexual harassment prevention, hazing and bullying prevention, physical fitness and family programs.

Buck believes the best ideas about those issues will come from the fleet

"Sailors will take this into their own hands and solve it themselves," he said. "I'm the guy who can resource their efforts

Many sailors are working to combat many of the problems Buck's office addresses. Young sailors around the world have voluntarily started more than 300 chapters of a group called the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions, a group that works to educate other sailors about safe decision-making and fun activities they can participate in during time off that do not in-

clude alcohol. Buck said. Buck believes the numbers show that some of the training is working. The fiscal 2013 numbers will not be released until spring, but Buck said unrestricted reports of sexual assault were up 46 percent over fiscal 2012. There were 527 unrestricted reports of sexual assault in the Navy in fiscal 2012, a 29 percent increase from the previous year.

"We anticipated a large number of reports, an increase in reporting," Buck said, as sailors gain more confidence in the system and victims are no longer afraid they will be retaliated against for reporting a crime.
"That's the anecdotal feedback

that we're getting from scores and scores of sailors, that they have a huge trust in their leader ship, that they're now part of a ... team that will take their reports seriously," he said. He added that the trust "was not necessarily the feelings of the past.'

Still, there are obstacles.

The annual report of sexual assaults at the military academies showed a high percentage of restricted reports - reports that allow the victim to seek medical help or therapy but not pursue legal action against the offender. Victims who file a restricted report can later choose to make the report unrestricted.

At the Naval Academy, 11 of the 15 reported sexual assaults remained restricted at the end of the year

Buck said it illustrates the issue of peer pressure at the service academies.

"We still have work to do in that regard to help the midshipmen,' he said, and much of it comes down to bystander intervention and taking care of one another.

"One of the hardest things that you can do is hold a peer accountable, to step in and intervene, try to keep a peer, friend, shipmate or family member from making a destructive decision," he said The more that we can encourage and train and help our sailors become bystanders, the quicker we will solve these problems."

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Senator: Vet bill will get support despite price tag

By LEO SHANE III Stars and Strines

WASHINGTON - Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is confident that law-makers from both parties will support the initiatives in his wide-ranging legislative package for veterans if it comes up for a chamber vote next week.

Senate leaders still haven't settled on how they'll pay for its \$30 billion price tag, and that decision will likely determine its future in the House.

Senate Majority Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., has promised the bill — which covers dozens of changes to Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations, veterans education benefits and post-military health care — will be brought up for a vote "as quickly as possible.

How to pay for the legislation hasn't been worked out. Sanders said his staff is looking at tapping into overseas contingency funding as the most likely option, saying he sees plenty of waste and excess in that account that could be redirected for the post-war needs of veterans. However, that's unlikely to gather Republican support in the House, since leadership there has resisted tapping into overseas resources to pay for new programs.

have blasted Republicans Democratic efforts to use annual reductions in contingency spending to offset new spending, arguing that the approach is nothing more than a budgeting gimmick

About \$6 billion of the \$30 billion cost would go toward restoring a 1 percent reduction in annual cost-of-living increases for working-age military retirees. That proposal was included in the recent deal and drew the ire of veterans groups, who called it an unfair cut on a population that has already sacrificed private sector wages and careers to serve the country.

Numerous lawmakers have proposed repealing the cut, but none has found broad consensus on how to cover that \$6

Sanders said he's confident Senate leadership will find a way to pay for the measure, and that rolling all of the legislative proposals into a massive, single bill won't hurt its chances of passage.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to review the military retirement changes Jan. 28 in a hearing featuring veterans advocates and DOD officials. Sanders said he is unsure when the vote will take place, but noted that the attention from the hearing will help highlight the need for a retirement fix and more comprehensive help for veterans.

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Judge orders networks to turn over footage in Naval Academy case

By PAMELA WOOD The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE - A military judge has ordered CNN and CBS to turn over unaired footage of interviews with a Naval Academy midshipman who was the alleged victim of sexual assault at an off-

campus party in 2012. Marine Corps Col. Daniel J. Daugherty ordered the TV networks on Wednesday to provide a portion of footage that he deemed was not duplicative of other interviews and testimony from the fe-male midshipman. The footage is sought by attorneys for Midshipman Joshua Tate, of Nashville, who is facing a March court-martial on charges of aggravated sexual assault and making a false statement.

Charges were dropped against two other midshipmen who were initially accused; one has since graduated and been commissioned as a Navy officer, the other is expected to testify at Tate's court-martial.

Interviews with both networks were recorded in 2013, before criminal cases were initiated against the three midshipmen, all former members of the Navy football team. CBS aired about five minutes of a 45-minute interview with the alleged victim. CNN aired 11 minutes from about 55 minutes of interviews.

In his order, Daugherty wrote that the alleged victim has acknowledged that she is the person in the interviews, even though her identity in the footage was obscured.

He also wrote that the footage is relevant in legal arguments about the alleged victim's memories of the night in question and about her credibility and the consistency of her statements over time

Jason Ehrenberg, Tate's lead civilian attorney, said he expects the networks to appeal to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. The judge gave the networks 72 hours to appeal.

"I get the sense that the networks will appeal and we probably won't be getting our hands on anything in the near future, Ehrenberg said.

CBS News spokeswoman Sonya McNair said the network is considering an appeal.

CNN did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday evening. An attorney for the alleged victim declined to comment.

Tate's court-martial approaches, the Naval Academy's superintendent, Vice Adm. Michael H. Miller, is expected to testify Friday in a pretrial hear-ing on how he decided whether to prosecute the three accused



Marines and sailors with Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response help U.S. citizens into a Marine Corps KC-1301 Hercules airplane in Juba, South Sudan, during an evacuation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy on Jan. 3.

US looks to build up crisis response force for Africa

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—The Marine Corps' 500-strong crisis response team based in southern Spain could soon be growing as part of an effort to beef up the military's ability to respond to flash points in volatile African hot spots

The U.S. has formally requested permission from the Spanish government to expand the Marine reaction force by 50 percent and extend its presence in Moron, Spain, by one more year, according to the Spanish newspaper El The request was made during

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's visit last week to the White House, the paper reported. During that visit, President

Barack Obama thanked the Spanish government for its support in hosting U.S. forces in the country and mentioned the opportunity for more collaboration on mili-

tary matters.
"We thanked the Prime Minister and his government as well as the opposition in Spain for the support they have for our work together, including hosting some of our military operations and facilities, which allow us I think to protect our embassies and to deal with issues of counter-terrorism," Obama said, accord-ing to a White House transcript. "And we pledged to continue to try to improve and deepen what is already a very strong defense relationship."

According to El Pais, the temporary nature of the bilateral basing agreement means the Spanish government could approve an increase of between 750 and 900 Marines without modifying the current agreement.

The effort to bolster the Marines presence comes at a time of unrest in numerous parts of Africa, including South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic, as well as ungoverned territory across much of the Sahel.

Earlier this month, Moron-based Marines deployed in Africa were called on to assist in the evacuation of U.S. Embassy staff in South Sudan, a country teetering on the brink of civil war. The unit also has been placed on alert in connection with hostilities in other parts of the continent.

The unit, a Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, possesses significant airlift capabilities, including KC-130s and tilt-rotor Ospreys, which take off like helicopters and fly like airplanes.

The Marines have a similar MAGTF in southern Italy, which focuses mainly on training missions with African militaries. The MAGTF combines airlift capa-bilities and ground forces under a single commander, making it an ideal force for executing operations on the sprawling African continent.

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AF secretary sees 'morale issues' in UŠ nuclear force

The Associated Press

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. - The top civilian leader in the Air Force said Wednesday she has "picked up on morale issues" among airmen and officers in charge of the nation's nuclear force but remains confident in its

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James visited Minot Air Force Base, the latest in a string of stops from high-level officials in response to various blunders at the military installations that care for the nation's nuclear arsenal. She visited F.E. Warren Air Force Base at Cheyenne, Wyo., on Tuesday and Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The fact-finding tour, in response to cheating and drug scandals the Air Force announced last week as well as a string of other missteps The Associated Press revealed in 2013, is aimed at finding the breadth of problems within the force that operates the nation's Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles.

"I certainly wish that this would not have happened, but it did happen and it's a problem," James said of the cheating and

Despite the problems, James told reporters she has "full confidence in the nuclear mission."

I certainly wish that this would not have happened, but it did happen and it's a problem. 7

Deborah Lee James Air Force secretary

During her visit to Malmstrom, she said she believes the airmen are motivated and committed to their work, but there are unique stressors that affect morale among nuclear force. The Great Falls Tribune reported.

In Cheyenne, James addressed a large crowd at the F.E. Warren base and met with airmen in smaller sessions, the Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported. She said she heard concerns about the career implications of missing an answer or two on the command's monthly tests.

Gen. Mark Welsh, the Air Force chief of staff, who accompanied James on her base visits, said last week that while he is confident in the security of the nuclear missiles, the drug and cheating probes show that "the integrity issue clearly has got to

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Poll shows a drop in nation's uninsured

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The nation's uninsured rate dropped modestly this month as the major coverage expansion under the new health care law got underway, according to a closely watched survey released Thursday.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found that the uninsured rate for U.S. adults dropped by 1.2 percentage points in January, to 16.1 percent. The biggest change was for unemployed people, a drop of 6.7 percentage points. That was followed by a 2.6 percentage-point decline for nonwhites. Traditionally, both groups are far more likely to be uninsured than the population as a whole.

The survey found no appreciable change among young adults ages 18-34. Members of that coveted, low-cost demographic have been ambivalent about signing up so far.

Based on interviews with more than 9,000 people, the Gallup numbers could be the first evidence that core provisions of the much-debated law have started delivering on the promise of access for nearly all Americans.

The overall drop in the uninsured rate would translate to approximately 2 million to 3 million people gaining coverage.

Major elements of the health care law took effect with the new year. Virtually all Americans are now required to get covered or risk fines. Insurers can no longer turn away people with health problems. New state-based markets are offering taxpayer-subsidized insurance to middle-class households

Medicaid sign-ups are also rising. That's partly because of a program expansion accepted by half the states and partly as a consequence of previously eligible but unenrolled people now forced to comply with the law's individual coverage mandate.

"The uninsured rate had been expected to come down as the Affordable Care Act was implemented." said Frank Newport, Gallup's editor in chief. "That would be the most reasonable hypothesis."

Nonetheless, Newport said it could take a calendar quarter three months - to discern a full trend. Other factors could also be behind the shift, including an improving economy.

"It's a drop, but not extraordinary," Newport said. "The glass is half full for proponents of the Affordable Care Act because things are moving in the right direction. But the glass is half empty because things haven't moved much '



Protesters line up outside the prison walls in Huntsville, Texas, on Wednesday just before receiving word that the scheduled execution of Mexican national Edgar Tamayo would proceed. Tamayo was convicted of killing a Houston police officer 20 years ago.

Despite pressure, Texas executes Mexican national

By MICHAEL GRACZYK The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A Mexican national has been executed in Texas for killing a Houston police officer, despite pleas diplomatic pressure from the Mexican government and the U.S. State Department to halt the punishment.

Edgar Tamavo, 46, received a lethal injection Wednesday night for the January 1994 fatal shooting of Officer Guy Gaddis, 24.

Asked by a warden if he had a final statement, he mumbled "no" and shook his head. As the lethal dose of pentobarbital began taking effect, he took a few breaths and then made one slightly audible snore before all movement stopped. He was pronounced dead 17 minutes after the drug was administered, at 9:32 p.m. CST.

The execution, the first this year in the nation's most active death penalty state, was delayed more than three hours while the U.S. Supreme Court considered last-ditch appeals.

Tamayo never looked toward Gaddis's mother, two brothers and two other relatives who watched through a window.

The execution came after the Supreme Court and lower federal courts rejected last-day appeals and Texas officials spurned arguments that Tamayo's case was tainted because he wasn't informed, under an international agreement, that he could get legal help from the Mexican consulate after his arrest in the officer's

slaying. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected Tamavo's re-

The execution of Mr. Tamayo violates the United States' treaty commitments. threatens the nation's foreign policy interests and undermines the safety of all Americans abroad. 7

> Sandra L. Babcock and Maurie Levin lawyers for Edgar Tamayo

quest for clemency on Tuesday. "It doesn't matter where you're from," said Lucy Nashed, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry. "If you commit a despicable crime like this in Texas, you are subject to our state laws, including a fair trial by jury and the ultimate

Tamayo's lawyers, Sandra L. Babcock and Maurie Levin, issued a statement after the Supreme Court's ruling, saying Perry and Attorney General Greg Abbott "ignored promises they made to our nation's leaders that they would ensure review of Mr. Tamavo's consular rights violation.

"The execution of Mr. Tamayo violates the United States' treaty commitments, threatens the nation's foreign policy interests and undermines the safety of all Americans abroad," Babcock and Levin also said.

The Mexican government earlier this week said it "strongly opposed" the execution.

Gaddis, who had been on the force for two years, was driving Tamayo and another man from a robbery scene when the officer was shot three times in the head and neck with a pistol Tamayo had concealed in his pants. The car crashed and Tamavo fled on foot but was captured a few blocks away, still in handcuffs, carrying the robbery victim's watch and

wearing the victim's necklace. Mexican officials and Tamayo's attorneys contend he was protected under a provision of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Legal assistance guaranteed under that treaty could have uncovered evidence to contest the capital murder charge or provide evidence to keep Tamayo off death row, they said.

Secretary of State John Kerry previously asked Abbott to delay Tamayo's punishment, saying it "could impact the way American citizens are treated in other countries." The State Department repeated that stance earlier Wednesday but had no immediate comment following the execution.

Another of Gaddis's brothers, Gary, said it was "unfortunate this has become a political event.

"But we're here to remind the public who the true victim is in this crime and to warn the public that John Kerry has no right to try to change the locks of the Supreme Court and turn the keys over to the international community," he

Poll: Obama is nice guy and a so-so president

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Nice guy, so-so president.

Taking stock of President Barack Obama at the five-year mark in his term, less than a third of Americans consider him to be an above-average chief executive. Nearly twice as many find him

A new Associated Press-GfK Poll finds the president's personal image to be on the rebound after taking a hit during the government shutdown late last year, with 58 percent now sizing him up as very or somewhat likable. That's up 9 percentage points from October, just after the shutdown.

Yet as Obama prepares to stand before Americans for his annual State of the Union address on Tuesday, people are largely pessimistic about the country's direction, down on the condition of the economy and doubtful it will bounce back anytime soon. Unemployment? Seventy percent think it will go higher or stay the same.

Obama "wasn't a total disanpointment," said Joshua Parker, 37, a small businessman in Smyrna, Tenn. "He didn't put us into a Great Depression.

"He would probably be a guy I would like to hang out with if he wasn't president," Parker said. "But I like a lot of people who are

not qualified to be president."

On the cusp of his sixth year in office, Obama is far removed from those heady days before his first inauguration, when twothirds of Americans predicted he'd be an outstanding or aboveaverage president.

Now, 31 percent think he's been outstanding or above average, a quarter size him up as average, and 42 percent describe his presidency as below average or poor.

The ranks of those who believe he's been outstanding or above average have edged down 6 points since just after Obama's re-election in November 2012, reflecting slippage in how he's viewed by Democrats, particularly liberals.

While Obama's likability numbers have recovered somewhat, doubts about his decisiveness and honesty persist. More than half of Americans wouldn't describe him as decisive or honest. Fiftytwo percent don't find him particularly inspiring.
The AP-GfK Poll was conduct-

ed Jan. 17-21, using Knowledge-Panel, GfK's probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population It involved online interviews with 1.060 adults. The survey has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for all respondents.



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Board urges end to NSA phone data spying

By Stephen Braun The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A sharply divided U.S. government task force that reviewed the National Security Agency's surveillance program for four months has urged President Barack Obama to shut down the agency's bulk collection of phone data and purge its massive inventory of millions of Americans' calling records, The Associated Press has learned.

The recommendation from the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board to abandon the NSA's phone surveillance was even more sweeping than a similar proposal from another panel of experts. That panel, the Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies, advised Obama in December to restrict phone surveillance to limited court-ordered

The oversight board's new 234page report — a copy of which was obtained by the AP — contained several strong dissents from two members of the five-member board — former Bush administration national security lawyers who recommended that the government retain its broad phone surveillance authority. The board disclosed key parts of its report to Obama earlier this month before he unveiled his plans during a speech last week to the nation.

In that speech, Obama said the bulk phone collection program would continue for the time being. He directed the Justice Department and intelligence officials to find ways to end the government's control over the phone data. And he narrowed the NSA's bulk collection by insisting on close supervision by a secret federal intelligence court and reducing the wide chain of calls that the NSA may track. Phone companies have said they do not want to take responsibility for overseeing the

Warning that the NSA's massive daily intake of calling records "raises serious threats to privacy and civil liberties," a three-mem-ber majority of the oversight board said the government should end the surveillance program and purge the database of telephone and stored during the program's operation." The board said the NSA should instead seek records directly from phone service providers using "existing legal authorities

The NSA's surveillance programs and other operations began coming to light last year - and drawing intense criticism - after revelations fueled by an estimated 1.7 million documents taken by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden and handed over to several journalists.

NY boy killed in fire hailed as hero for saving family

The Associated Press

PENFIELD, N.Y. - A young boy who died while trying to rescue his disabled grandfather from a burning mobile home had saved the lives of six relatives after being awoken by a burning blanket, authorities said.

Tyler Doohan, 8, was being called a hero by firefighters on Wednesday, two days after the early morning fire tore through the grandfather's home in a trailer park in Penfield, killing the boy, his grandfather and his uncle. Six other relatives - four adults and children ages 4 and 6 — were rescued because of Tyler's actions, officials said.

"He saved six people. They all would have died if he hadn't woken up," said Chris Ebmeyer, chief of the volunteer fire company in Penfield, a suburban town of 36,000 residents.

The fire chief said nine people were staying at the 14-foot-by-60-



JAMIE GERMANO, THE ROCHESTER (N.Y.) DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE/AP

Firefighters investigate a fatal fire in a mobile home in Penfield, N.Y.

foot trailer when the fire started around 4:45 a.m. Monday. Tyler, spending the night at his grandfather's place because school was off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, was awoken when the blanket covering his sleeping 4-year-old cousin caught fire, Ebmeyer

Tyler woke up six of his relatives, and they all made it outside. He then ran back to the room where his grandfather, Lewis

Beach, 57, was sleeping. Beach used a wheelchair and crutches after having a leg amputated be-cause of health problems, the fire chief said

Firefighters found Tyler's body a few feet from Beach's, Ebmeyer said. The body of Tyler's uncle, Steven Smith, 54, was found in another part of the trailer, which didn't appear to have a working smoke detector, he said.

A Monroe County sheriff's dep-

uty and a firefighter arrived at the scene within a minute of the dispatch call, but the trailer was already engulfed in flames and smoke, Ebmeyer said. The first fire crew to arrive tried to enter the trailer but was driven back,

The cause of the blaze appears to have been electrical in origin, but the inquiry was continuing as investigators interviewed the iniured relatives. Ebmeyer said.

Watchdog: Civil rights and liberties eroded in '13

By Peter James Spielmann The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Civil rights and liberties around the world declined for the eighth straight year, dragged down by the Egyptian military's coup, Venezuela clinging to authoritarianism and Russia's crackdown on opposition groups, according to a pro-democracy watchdog group.

The erosion of civil liberties and rights in 2013 was also driven by vicious civil wars or terrorism campaigns in Syria, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and Yemen, Freedom House said Thursday

The report showed 54 nations showed declines in political rights and civil liberties, and 40 showed gains — the eighth year in a row that erosion exceeded improvement and the longest stretch since the first Freedom House democracy report was published 41 years ago.

A year ago, the Washing-ton-based Freedom House had pointed to the pro-democratic Arab Spring rallies in Cairo since 2011 as a hopeful sign for reform in Egypt and urged Washington to encourage the trend. Instead, it resulted in a coup deposing democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood.

"The United States has influence in Egypt, we give the Egyptian military major assistance, yet we have been unwilling to even describe what happened as a coup," said Arch Puddington, Freedom House's research director. "And Secretary of State John Kerry has said, on Aug. 1, that Maj. Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and the force now in power are 'restoring democracy.'

"We see developments in Egypt since the coup as a major step backward," Puddington said. "Conditions in Egypt are dangerously close to conditions under Hosni Mubarak before the Arab

Telescope finds definitive signs of water on dwarf planet Ceres

By Alicia Chang The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - The largest object in the asteroid belt just got more attractive. Scientists have confirmed signs of water on the dwarf planet Ceres, one of the few bodies in the solar system to hold that distinction

Peering through the Herschel Space Observatory, a team led by the European Space Agency detected water plumes spewing from two regions on Ceres

The observations, published in Thursday's issue of Nature, come as NASA's Dawn spacecraft is set to arrive at the Texas-sized dwarf planet next year.

It's long been suspected that Ceres is water-rich, but previous detections have been inconclusive. This is the first definitive evidence of water on Ceres and confirms that it has an icy sur-



INSTITUT DE MECANIQUE CELESTE ET DE CALCUI, DES EPHEMERIDES/AP

This artist's rendering shows water plumes spewing from the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres.

face, said lead author Michael Kuppers, of the European Space

"It makes Ceres a more exciting target" for exploration, he

The latest finding puts Ceres in a special class of solar system objects with active plumes of water, a key ingredient for life. The company includes Jupiter's moon, Europa - where an underground ocean is believed to exist and the Saturn moon Enceladus, where jets have been seen venting from the surface.

The source of the water plumes is still unclear. Scientists think there may be a layer of ice just below the surface that gets heated by the sun, or the plumes could be spewed by ice volcanoes.

Dawn won't be in the best position to witness any water activity since it will arrive at a time when Ceres is far from the sun. But the spacecraft carries instruments that can detect water and it will map the dwarf planet in detail, said Dawn deputy project scientist Carol Raymond, who had no role in the telescope discovery.

Abortion foes brave cold to join March for Life in Washington

By Michelle Boorstein AND CAROL MORELLO The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Friars and nuns in woolen, winter capes and thousands of fellow Catholics rallied Wednesday in frigid temperatures and snow at the 41st annual March for Life.

The world's largest antiabortion event, held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, growy younger each year. The Mall between Seventh Street and the Washington Monument was full for a few hours with youth groups from across the eastern half of the country.

Abortion has been legal in the United States for these young people's entire lives, and the movement's leaders say the latest generation of activists is creating a more upbeat culture. Graphic images of fetuses and angry sermons shouted through bullhorns were rare Wednesday. Instead, the Mall was filled with people holding placards with such slogans as "We are the pro-life generation" and large images of a smilling Pope Francis. Speakers pumped out dance music.

Although most marchers are Catholic, particularly members of high school and college groups from parochial schools and Catholic universities, organizers closed the event with a well-known non-Catholic — evangelical leader James Dobson, who appeared with his adopted son.

This year's theme was adoption, an effort to show more empathy to mothers, said Jeanne Monahan, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund.

March leaders are working to broaden the march — arguably the anti-abortion movement's public face — from being largely Catholic, white and often heavy with Republican speakers and GOP-leaning signs in the crowd. Political speeches this year were shortened, and Monahan did away with video welcomes from politicians.

Brendan O'Rourke, 28, was marching up Pennsylvania Avenue with 70 others from the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. The youth pastor said he doesn't think abortion has to be a divisive issue—or one based on religious precepts.

"I'm not anti-abortion for religious reasons," said O'Rourke, who wore a sticker saying "I'm worth waiting for."

"We can't all agree when life begins, but there's a good chance there's a life in there," he said. "It seems better to be on the safe side."

The March for Life is the culmination each year of several days of meetings and Masses and training sessions for abortion opponents. Included was a workshop Wednesday morning for anti-abortion bloggers at the Family Research Council.



Sugan Wateu/A

Supporters and opponents of abortion rights demonstrate Wednesday outside the Supreme Court in Washington during the March for Life.



NIKKI Fox, (Harrisonburg, Va.) Daily News-Record/A

Brittany and Michael Dioszeghy, of Harrisonburg, Va., clean off their car Wednesday for their morning

NYC mayor: 'More could have been done' on snow

By Jonathan Lemire And Jennifer Peltz The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Northeasterners scraped and shoveled Wednesday after a snowstorm grounded flights, shuttered schools and buried roads with a surprising amount of snow, leaving biting cold in its wake. The atmosphere was particularly frosty in New York, where the new mayor acknowledged flaws in the cleanup and some residents complained that schools remained open while children elsewhere in the region stayed home.

The storm stretched from Kentucky to New England but hit hardest along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston. As much as 14 inches of snow fell in Philadelphia, with New York City seeing almost as much, and parts of Massachusetts were socked with as much as 18 inches. Temperatures were in the single digits or the teens in many places Wednesday

In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, facing one of the first flashpoints of his weeks-old tenure, initially defended what he called a "coordinated, intense, citywide response" to a storm he said caused a worse-than-expected headache when it ramped up ar rush hour. De Blasio, who campaigned on closing gaps between rich and poor city residents, at first rebuffed complaints that the effort had lagged on Manhattan's posh Upper East Side, saying "no ne was treated differently."

He backtracked Wednesday evening, saying he'd determined "more could have been done to serve the Upper East Side."

Thirty more vehicles and nearly 40 more sanitation workers were sent to the area to finish the cleanup, de Blasio said in a statement that noted he still felt the citywide response, overall, "was well-executed."

In a city where snow removal has proven a political hot potato, the flap was almost a mirror image of complaints about how de Blasio's predecessor, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, handled a 2010 blizzard. Bloomberg, who lives on the Upper East Side, faced criticism that outer boroughs had gotten short shift from plows. Brooklyn-dwelling de Blasio, then the city's public advocate, was among the critics.

This time, de Blasio found himself being asked why some Upper East Side avenues still were covered in snow when a Brooklyn thoroughfare was plowed clear to the pavement.

Pamela Murphy Jennings' two children navigated snowy sections of tony Madison and Park avenues to get to their public schools on the Upper East Side, she said in an interview.

"Children have to walk to city bus stops and cross these streets to get here," she said. "Cars are sliding on roads. If there was any day to close schools, this was the day."

Virginia attorney general to fight state's gay marriage ban

By Steve Szkotak The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — In a move that could give gay marriage its first foothold in the South, Virginia's attorney general said Thursday he concluded the state's ban on same-sex unions is unconstitutional and he will join the fight against it.

Newly-elected Democratic Attorney General Mark R. Herring said he would support gay couples who have filed lawsuits challenging the state's ban. "After thorough legal review.

I have now concluded that Virginia's ban on marriage between same-sex couples violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution on two grounds: marriage is a fundamental right being denied to some Virginians, and the ban unlawfully discriminates on the basis of both sexual orientation and gender," Herring said.

comes on the heels of court rulings in which federal judges struck down gay marriage bans in Utah and Oklahoma.

Currently, the District of Columbia and 17 states allow gay marriage, most of them clustered in the Northeast. None of them are in the old Confederacy.

Herring's decision drew divid-

ed responses.

Tom Shuttleworth, representing the couples challenging the state ban, praised Herring's position "on the basic human right of being able to marry the person of your choice."

"It's a nice day to be an American from Virginia," he wrote in an email.

But the conservative Family Foundation of Virginia called the development "disappointing and frightening."

The Republican speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates said Herring was setting a "dangerous precedent."

"The attorney general has a constitutional and statutory obligation to enforce and defend the duly adopted laws and Constitution of Virginia," William J. Howell said in a statement. "This is not an obligation that can be taken lightly."

Syria says terrorism, not peace, is priority

By Zeina Karam The Associated Press

GENEVA — Syria's government declared that its main priority was stopping terrorism — not ensuring peace — and the opposition hinted it was far from ready to negotiate directly with the government it wants to overthrow, casting sharp doubt Thursday on peace talks that have barely

begun. On the day that the two sides were meeting separately with a U.N. mediator known for untangling diplomatic knots, their comments affirmed positions hardened by nearly three years of civil war. The goal of direct talks by Friday appeared distant at best.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, speaking after the tense opening day of a peace conference that has nearly fallen apart at every step, said his government's priority was "to fight terrorism."

"This paves the way for the start of the political process and an internal Syrian dialogue without any foreign intervention,"

he said.

At least 130,000 people have been killed in the fighting that began in March 2011 with a peaceful uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule, according to activists who are the only ones still keeping count. The fighting in Syria has become a proxy war between regional powers Iran and Saudi Arabia, and taken on post-Cold War overtones with Russia and the United States backing opposite sides.

Report: White House aware of torture photos in November

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The New York Times is reporting that the Obama administration learned in November about the photographs said to document widespread torture and executions in Syrian prisons when a State Department official viewed some of the images on a laptop belonging to an anti-Syrian-government activist, a senior official said Wednesday.

The United States did not act on the photos, officials told the Times, because it did not have possession of the digital files and could not establish their authenticity.

Nevertheless, they said, the adminis-

basing that assessment in part on the meticulous way in which the bodies in the photos were numbered.

Al-Moallem dismissed the Western-

backed Syrian National Coalition as exiled.

ineffectual meddlers, insisting that any po-

tration believes the photos are genuine,

The photographs, some of which were released this week on the eve of an international peace conference on Syria, have helped prompt the administration to heighten its demand that President Bashar Assad release political prisoners and allow Red Cross inspectors access to the prisons, the Times reported.

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney said: "These photos cannot be ignored or dismissed. They suggest widespread and apparently systematic violations of international human law, and demonstrate just how far the regime is willing to go in harming its own people."

Administration officials told the Times that the State Department official, whom they did not name, viewed the photos in Turkey during a meeting with the representative of an antigovernment group.

litical negotiations should take place without outside interference and with those who truly represent Syrians. Haitham al-Maleh, a veteran Syrian opposition figure and a senior member of the coalition, said Thursday there may not be any face-to-face talks between the two dejations on Friday — as had been hoped — but rather mediator Lakhdar Brahimi would continue to shuttle between the two sides.

"I don't think we're ready for that yet. The gap is too big," he said.

Al-Maleh, a longtime opponent of Assad's rule who spent many years in Syrian prisons, said it was "not easy" to sit in the same room with Assad's officials at Wednesday's opening of the peace conference.

"I looked at them and thought, are they really Syrians like me? How can they sit there and defend such a killer regime. How?" he asked.

Representatives hand-picked by Assad were staying in Geneva's Hotel de la Paix — or Peace Hotel. The opposition coalition was staying at the Intercontinental, where then-President Jimmy Carter met in 1977 with Assad's father, Hafez, to discuss Mideast peace prospects.

Syrian refugees staying at the Kilis camp in southern Turkey say the negotiations in Switzerland will not change their plight.

"Whether the opposition and the (Syrian) regime sit at the negotiating table makes no difference. The people of Syria have been left alone, and the international community is ignoring them," said refugee Mustafa Rejab.

Ukraine tensions reach 2nd major city

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Tensions in Ukraine spread far from its embattled capital on Thursday as hundreds of people in the city of Lviv stormed into the regional governor's office and forced him to write a letter of resignation.

Kiev, the capital, has been the epicenter of two months of protests against President Viktor Yanukovych after he turned awar from closer ties to the 28-nation European Union in favor of getting a ballout loan from Russia. The protests have turned violent this week as pro-EU demonstrators feel Yanukovych has ignored their demands to resign, to call a new election and to rescind his harsh laws against protesters.

Lviv is one of the major cities



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Opposition leader and former WBC heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko addresses protesters Thursday near the burning barricades between police and protesters in central Kiev, Ukraine.

in western Ukraine, where support for Yanukovych is thin. The governor, Oleh Salo, who was appointed by Yanukovych, later insisted he acted under duress and was rescinding his resignation.

Yanukovych on Thursday called a special parliament session for next week to discuss the tensions that have spiraled after at least two protesters were killed Wednesday in violent clashes with

police. Opposition leaders had demanded that Yanukovych must make concessions by Thursday evening or face renewed clashes between protesters and police in Kiev

There was no indication that Yanukovych's call represented an inclination to compromise with opposition protesters, as his backers hold a majority of seats in narliament.

UN court trims terms of Serbs in Kosovo case

THE HAGUE, Netherlands— Three high-ranking Serbian officials had their sentences trimmed Thursday for atroctites in Kosovo, but Yugoslav war crimes appeals judges upheld key elements of a lower court's finding that leaders in Belgrade orchestrated crimes against humanity in Kosovo in 1999.

In a lengthy and complex appeals decision, judges at the U.N. court overturned parts of the men's convictions and cut their sentences.

Nikola Sainovic, Nebojsa Pavkovic, Sreten Lukic and Vladimir Lazarevic were convicted by the tribunal in 2009 for crimes committed against Kosovo Albanians during Serbia's deadly crackdown on ethnic Albanians in 1999

On Thursday, Sainovic had his 22-year sentence reduced to 18 years, Lukic's 22-year sentence was trimmed by two years and Lazarevic's 15-year term was cut by one year. Judges left Pavkovic's 22-year sentence in place.

From The Associated Press

Indian elder accused of ordering gang rape

By Kartikay Mehrotra Bloomberg News

NEW DELHI — Police in India have arrested a village leader who is suspected of ordering the gang rape of a 20-year-old woman in West Bengal state after she admitted to having an affair with a

man from another community.
Sunil Soren, the village eider,
demanded the sexual assault
after her family failed to pay an
\$807 penalty for the illicit relationship, Prasanta Chowdhury,
additional superintendent of police in Birbhum district, about al 117 miles north of Kolkata, said
by phone. Police on Wednesday
arrested 12 other men accused
of taking part in the rape, which
stemmed from a local court proceeding unrecognized by any
laws, he said.

"The crime was led by the unofficial head man of the tribal community." Chowdhury said, "In much of rural India, one man is simply recognized by the community as the village leader, sometimes by age, sometimes by wealth or education. It's not uncommunity that the said of the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the said of the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability is a sometime to the conceptability in the conceptability in the conceptability in the contribution of the contribution of the contribution of the conceptability in the conceptabili

India has tightened laws criminalizing violence against women as it struggles to overcome a reputation as a nation unsafe for females. Britain issued an advisory last week to women traveling to India after a 51-year-old Danish tourist was gang-raped on Jan. 14 in central Delhi, a short drive from the country's presidential The West Bengal Commission for Women ordered an investigation into the gang rape and called for the "harshest punishment," The Times of India newspaper reported, citing chairwoman Sunanda Mukherjee. A phone call Thursday went unanswered at the organization, which was established to ensure that the constitutional and legal rights of women are properly implemented.

On average, a woman was raped in India every 21 minutes in 2012, according to the most recent National Crime Records Bureau data, statistics that police say reflect increased confidence among females to report attacks. The country saw a 35 percent drop in foreign female tourist arrivals in the first three months of last year, according to a study published in April by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India.

The rape occurred on the evening of Jan. 20 after the village council summoned the victim and her partner for a meeting. The victim told police she was held captive for more than 12 hours, during which she was raped repeatedly by people from her community whom she had respected, Chowdhury said.

The victim was admitted to a local hospital and is in stable condition, he said. The attackers were protected by other members of the community when police attempted to arrest the accused, forcing police to call for reinforcements, he said.

US diplomat: China needs to work with neighbors

The Associated Press

BELIING - China needs to work with its neighbors to cool rising tensions over its claims to territory in surrounding seas, a top U.S. diplomat said Thursday, adding the U.S. has a strong interest in seeing such matters handled peacefully

Deputy Secretary of State Wil-

liam Burns stressed during talks in Beijing that no country should take unilateral action to assert its claims, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said in a statement.

China should "work constructively with its neighbors to reduce tensions in the East China Sea and the South China Sea," Burns said. The statement said Burns "reiterated long-standing U.S. interests in all parties managing the situation diplomatically.

Beijing and Tokyo are locked in a bitter dispute over claims to a string of tiny East China Sea islands controlled by Japan, while Beijing is in conflict with several of its southern neighbors over islands and strategic waterways in the South China Sea.

The U.S. says it doesn't take a position on who owns the islands. but insists on the right to freedom of navigation through surrounding seas. Washington also has mutual defense treaties with Japan and

the Philippines, one of the main claimants in the South China Sea meaning the U.S. could be drawn in if a conflict were to erupt.

The embassy said Burns also discussed steps to persuade North Korea and Iran to cooperate with the international community over their nuclear programs.

Thai police: US tourist likely killed by elephants

By Thanyarat Doksone The Associated Press

BANGKOK - Park rangers in Thailand have found the body of an American tourist who was apparently trampled to death by elephants in a reserve outside Bangkok, police said Thursday.

The woman went missing Jan. 13 in Thailand's Kaeng Krachan National Park in the western province of Petchaburi, police Col. Woradet Suanklaai said

She was found crumpled in the woods five days later, after a 70-person search team was deployed, and the severity of the injuries indicated she was likely trampled to death.

"Her arms, her wrists and other parts of the body were broken, so we assumed she was trampled by elephants because no humans could have caused such power-ful damage to the body," Woradet said. Police sent the body to a forensic institute in the capital to determine the cause of death,

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok confirmed the death, but gave no details Woradet said the woman, who

was in her 20s, was traveling alone when she left a camping ground in the park.

"Looking at the pictures she took in her camera, we see a lot of animals, birds, snakes, lizards," Woradet said. "We assumed she wanted to take pictures of elephants because that's what the Kaeng Krachan National Park is famous for. We believed she wanted to find them and take some photos?

Looking at the pictures she took in her camera, we see a lot of animals, birds, snakes, lizard. We assumed she wanted to take pictures of elephants because that's what the Kaeng Krachan National Park is famous for. 7

> Woradet Suanklaai Thailand police colonel



UK 'poverty porn' show stirs welfare debate

By Sylvia Hui The Associated Press

LONDON - It's reality TV for austerity times.

A shoplifter, a recovering drug addict and a young couple barely able to feed their kids are among the stars of "Benefits Street," a smash hit reality show featur-ing welfare recipients that has stirred up a storm of controversy

The program zooms in on a rough Birmingham street where 9 out of 10 people are said to live off state payouts, chronicling over five episodes the lives of jobless neighbors as they struggle with their daily problems.

The show has struck a strong chord in a nation fresh out of recession and still reeling from its a generation, with basic public services trimmed drastically. Brit-ain's welfare state has long been a subject of pride among many Britons, but these days attitudes toward benefits have hardened - and polls suggest that support for pouring taxpayer money into welfare, especially for the young, is at a record low.

British tabloids are replete with

hysteria stories about unemployed people buying flat-screen TVs and designer goods using welfare funds.

"Benefits Street" is the hottest in a growing genre of reality shows about the poor that has been dubbed "poverty porn" because of its sensationalist nature. Even the sober BBC has jumped on the band"Britain on the Fiddle," which set out to catch benefits fraudsters in the act on camera.

Critics say "Benefits Street" and its ilk are designed to fan hatred by showing people on the dole in the worst possible light, turning the poor - stereotyped as lazy and dishonest — into fodder for crass entertainment and easy targets for blame. Scores of viewers took to Twitter to vent abuse as soon as the first episode aired this month, and some even made death threats. "Set fire to Benefits Street," read one tweet. "How can we eradicate this scum?" asked another.

"On television the lowest common denominator is to get viewers, so you get the extreme end of the spectrum," said Abigail Scott Paul, of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a poverty research think tank. "These shows present poor people as characters in a soap opera.

Broadcaster Channel 4 denies the show is exploitative, insisting it reflected the reality in an area that has one of the country's highest unemployment rates.

Supporters of the program praise it for presenting a neglect-ed side of Britain and raising the stakes in a national debate about

Adding to the controversy, some residents have claimed that they were tricked into appearing on the show. And a working couple who said they were filmed complained they were edited out of the final cut because they don't fit the program's narrative of unemployed

UN panel pays \$1.03 billion in Kuwait compensation funds

The Associated Press

GENEVA - A U.N. panel that settles claims for damages resulting from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait has paid out another \$1.03 billion — bringing the total so far to \$44.5 billion

The U.N. Compensation Commission said Thursday that the money went toward settling the last award that is still to be paid

It results from a claim by the

Kuwait Petroleum Corp. for production and sales losses from damage to the country's oil

The commission said another \$7.8 billion remains to be paid from that award, which at \$14.7 billion was the largest the panel made. The Geneva-based commission

people milking the system.

was established by the U.N. Security Council in 1991 and is funded by a 5 percent tax on the export of Iraqi oil. It makes payments every three months.



FAITH



Woman tracks her hidden Jewish roots through 22 generations

By Ana Veciana-Suarez The Miami Herald

MIAMI - Genie Milgrom's quest for her religious roots began with a mysterious box her maternal grand-mother left her when she died. It ends, if one can call it an ending, with a book, website, speaking engagements around the world and a scholar's depth of knowledge about Jews who were forced to convert, or pretended to convert, during the Spanish Inquisition.

First, the box. Milgrom, who was raised Catholic in a traditional Cuban household, had already converted to Judaism when her maternal abuela left her a well-worn hamsa, or charm-"hand of God" trinket, and one gold earring with a Star of David

in the middle. No note accompanied the bequest.

Milgrom was intrigued. What did it mean? This, after all, was the grand-mother who, upon Milgrom's conversion, had whispered a warning about the dangers of being a Jew.

"It was all very mysterious," said Milgrom, 58, president of her family's Miami-based pharmaceutical export company, "Then I started remembering all the strange family customs we had, like throwing some of the dough used for baking into the back of the oven and sweeping the floor towards the center of the room and even how we would cracks eggs in a glass to check for blood."

All Sephardic traditions. All customs practiced by Crypto Jews, those who secretly maintained their Jew-ish customs while pretending to be

Curiosity piqued, Milgrom launched what would become an almost twodecade search for her Jewish roots, a search that took her to her ancestors hometown of Fermoselle, a village in the province of Zamora

on the Spanish-Portuguese horder as well as to a top Crypto Jewish historian in New Mexico, the head Sephardic rabbi in the U.S. and a rabbinical court in Israel

The tangible result is "My 15 Grandmothers," a 158-page self-published book that recounts her odyssey through history. It often reads like a true-life "Da Vinci Code," complete with underground prayer rooms and enough cinematic twists to give Dan Brown a run for his money.

"It became like a dissertation, but lot more personal," Milgrom said. "I was doing this for me, for my children, for my ancestors, for everything they had gone through."

Milgrom not only traced her genealogy 15 generations through her maternal line, but after writing the book, continued burrowing backward, past the years of the Inquisition and 1492. when the Jews were expelled from Spain. She has tracked 22 generations of her mother's maternal line and unearthed centuries-old documents about her family and Fermoselle as a Jewish settlement

Abraham Lavender, a Florida International University professor of soci-ology and Judaic studies, said

> awareness among Hispanic families about possible Jewish ancestry, but few people devote the time and energy to dig for so long and so far.

there has been increased

"She is much more into it than most people," Lavender said. "Most people go back just a few generations.

Milgrom, a mosaic artist whose work hangs throughout her spacious Kendall, Fla., home, laughs when asked about her persistence.

"I'm obsessed, 100 percent obsessed. Seriously, though, I wanted to be the voice my grandmothers never had. I wanted to tell people, 'Here we still are."

As a result of her "second career, as Milgrom calls her genealogical studies, she has become an expert on Crypto Jews and the byzantine process of tracking a family tree through the centuries. She is president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, the executive vice president of the Society of Crypto Judaic Studies, based in Colorado Springs, Colo. and the president of Tarbut Sefarad Fermoselle in Barcelona, an organization that disseminates information on cultural findings of Crypto Jewry She also has published in scholarly journals.

Milgrom's experience has morphed into a crusade to help others who are looking for their religious roots. She is writing a guide book about researching genealogy in Spain. Her own work can serve as a template for others, she helieves

"I don't proselytize, I don't go look-ing for it," Milgrom said. "But people find me. They hear about my story. I feel I've become an advocate for those who want to do what I'm doing."















'Bone Finder' locates uncharted dead

Man uses special radar in search for lost graves

By LEAH BINKOVITZ
The Washington Post

In cemeteries across the counrry, Bob Perry stalks the grounds looking for unmarked graves, forgotten burials and lost lives. He has his own logo: a skull and crossbones with the words "Bone Finder" above and "Tracking the Dead" below.

Equipped with what is essentially a heavy-duty baby stroller hooked to ground-penetrating radar, Perry helps graveyard officials make sense of incomplete records and find forgotten graves beneath the ground.

For the past several months, Perry has painstakingly paced the grounds of Washington's Historic Congressional Cemetery, tucked in a far corner of the city near the Anacostia River.

More than halfway done with the search, the grave whisperer already has found an estimated 2,750 unmarked burials. Congressional was founded in 1807 and served as an eternal home for some of America's first congressmen, but its recent history has been one of rebirth after a period of neglect. Perry's work will allow the historic graveyard to enter the modern era and to reconcile its records, which Perry ranks among the best he's encountered, with reality.

Congressional is one of 12 cemeteries in Washington still accepting new residents alongside people such as Civil War photographer Mathew Brady. But choosing a site for a new burial isn't always a sure bet. Over time. headstones and records disappear. The cemetery hasn't had a comprehensive map made of its holdings since 1935. Using carefully calibrated radar, Perry is able to find open space for the cemetery as well as to provide a more detailed picture of the bodies buried there.

The cemetery's now-pastoral grounds were filled with trash and spent syringes in the late 20th century. In the 1990s, a band of dog walkers raised money to begin a needed cleanup. They envisioned a place open to the public, recalling the Victorian tradition of garden cemeteries, which were often the only open green spaces available to city dwellers. Not everyone embraced the idea of a graveyard full of puppies and joggers, but the group became responsible co-stewards of the site.

Every year, the cemetery throws a birthday party for one of its most famous residents, John Philip Sousa, complete with



LEAH BINKOVITZ/The Washington Post

Bob Perry, second from left, explains his work mapping unmarked graves at the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

the United States Marine Band. When goats were called in to help manage (i.e., eat) an invasion of poison ivy in August, the quirky cemetery drew eyes from across the country.

Margaret Puglisi, vice president of the Association for the Historic Congressional Cemetery, which manages the site, launched the D.C. Metro chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies at the cemetery's chapel in early November.

Perry, 66, a Bostonian who now in New Hampshire, at first declined an offer to make a subterranean survey of Congressional. It is much bigger than the hundreds of cemeteries and church plots he has surveyed, many up and down the East Coast. But the staff was persistent, and Perry relented.

Now, he said, Congressional is his favorite cemetery. He has to remind himself to focus while he walks the radar up and down the rows because he often gets distracted reading the headstones.

Perry talks with a strong Boston accent and has a soft spot in his heart for fellow veterans. He likes the solitary nature of the work he does, the quiet as he walks the grassy streets of a silent city. He's gruff but patient with passersby who stop to ask him about his work. On the iob.

More than halfway done with the search, Bob Perry already has found an estimated 2,750 unmarked burials in a Washington cemetery.

he wears faded blue jeans, belted, with a tucked-in Oxford shirt.

Perry starts every job the same way. He finds a group of graves that have a well-documented provenance. Then he rolls his radar over the plots, slowly, step by step, back and forth. A screen between the cart's handlebars provides a picture of gray squiggles that indicate any sort of anomaly in the ground. Most burials appear as little arches, but other items can show up, too; buried pipes, tree roots and the like.

He divides the cemetery into sections and ropes off each one to sections and ropes off each one to guide his path. Anywhere he finds an anomaly, he sticks a small, red flag into the ground. He has a six-step process for verifying whether a gray blip on his screen is a "high-probability burial," as he calls it, or just an errant pipe. When he finds a bunch of blips

evenly spaced, side by side, he can be pretty sure those are burials.

After serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War and working at various jobs after leaving the military, Perry was asked by a friend who managed a cemetery to help map it. Perry agreed and found that he enjoyed the work.

He knew he had found his calling on his first real assignment outside of Boston.

It was the opening game of the Red Sox baseball season and, in a patriotic display, jets flew over the city.

"Here I am working in a cemetery, it's nice and quiet," Perry remembered. Suddenly, the jets flew by right as Perry was charting a section of veterans' graves. "It kind of overwhelmed me completely," he said. "It brought a tear to my eye thinking about it, and it's when I felt I finally found the business I should be in."

Ground-penetrating radar was first put to use in the Vietnam War. Perry remembers seeing it even though he didn't realize what it was at the time. Perry worked on river patrol boats, sometimes carrying elite forces up and down the waterways.

One day, after dropping a crew off, he stopped at an outpost to get something to eat. "I happened to see these guys on the ground pulling this piece of equipment around, and it never dawned on me what it was." Years later, he realized that they were searching for enemy cells using the same technology he now uses.

Perry comes to Congressional from his home in New Hampshire for a week every month. He can cover an acre in roughly two days, but his pace slows in the swampy summer heat.

Of the 16 sections he has surveyed so far, he said he's averaging between 200 and 250 unmarked graves. He's also found pipes that the cemetery didn't know were there.

Working in Washington presents some unique challenges. Everything from sirens to radio signals can upset readings. "I can't go five or 10 feet without having to reset the radar," he said. "Because you're right there in D.C. — you get eall sorts of this stuff in the air."

From November to April, Perry takes a break from projects in colder areas, preferring the warmer climes of the Virgin Islands or Hawaii. But he'll be back in the spring to finish the job at Congressional. When he's done, his work will be digitized so users can search the cemetery with a smartphone app. He suspects that most of the unmarked graves he has found will be accounted for in the cemetery's records. But some could be completely new discoveries.

FACES

Bieber arrested; charges include DUI

By Curt Anderson The Associated Press

A judge has set pop singer Justin Bieber's bail at \$2,500 on charges of drag racing, driving under the influence and resisting arrest.

was arrested on Thursday.

Authorities say Bieber was arrested after police saw him and R&B singer Khalil racing two luxury vehicles down the street at 4:09 a.m., with two other vehicles apparently being used to block off the area

Police say Bieber was clocked at 55 to 60 mph in a 30 mph zone.

Khalil, also was arrested on charges of drag racing and driving under the influence. Police said Khalil was driving a Ferrari.

Police Chief Ray Martinez told a news conference Thursday the singer was initially not cooperative when the officer pulled him

Martinez said the singer also had an invalid Georgia driver's license and admitted to smoking marijuana, taking prescription medication and drinking.

According to the arrest report, Bieber "had slow deliberate movements" and a look of stupor on his face when the officer ordered him to exit his vehicle.

The 19-year-old Bieber was placed under arrest after repeatedly refusing to put his hands on his vehicle so the officer could pat him down to look for weapons, the report said.

It says he cursed several times at the officer and demanded to know why he was being arrested.

Bieber failed a field sobriety test and was taken to the Miami Beach police station for a Breathalyzer, police said. Results have not been released.

His publicist, Melissa Victor, did not offer an immediate comment.
Under Florida law, people

under the age of 21 are considered driving under the influence if they have a blood-alcohol content of .02 percent or more. For 21 and over, it is .08 percent.

For a first DUI offense, there is no minimum sentence and a maximum of six months, a fine of \$250 to \$500, and 50 hours of community service.

For anyone under 21, there is an automatic six-month license suspension.

A first conviction for drag racing carries a sentence of up to six months, a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 and a one-year license suspension.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY JAIL/AF

The booking mug by the Miami **Dade County Corrections** Department in Florida shows Justin Bieber after his arrest Thursday. Police say Bieber has been charged with resisting arrest without violence in addition to drag racing and DUI.

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis nearly cut from rap Grammys, AP source says

From wire reports

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis had a rousing 2013 in hip-hop: The Source magazine named Macklemore its "man of the year," the duo was Billboard's top rap act and they took home most of the year's key hip-hop trophies, from the MTV Video Music Awards to the American Music Awards. They even beat Jay Z and Kanye West in the best group category at the BET Awards

The underground, independent Seattle group had made it, right? Not from the viewpoint of some members of the Recording Academy, according to a person who attended a rap committee meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity because that person wasn't authorized to publicly reveal the information.

While Macklemore & Ryan Lewis are up for seven honors at Sunday's Grammy Awards, including album of the year and best rap album for the platinum seller 'The Heist." most rap committee members felt the duo shouldn't qualify for the rap categories because of their success on mainstream radio and their appeal in

the pop world, the source said.
"Thrift Shop" not only topped the rap charts, it was also one of the year's biggest pop songs, selling 7.3 million tracks.

The group's follow-up, "Can't Hold Us," helped assimilate their name in pop music when it hit the No. 1 spot and sold more than 5 million tracks. But at a meeting held in Los Angeles late last year to discuss the Grammy categories, mem-bers of the rap committee declined their submissions.

At a meeting held a week later, members of the general Grammy committee discussed where Macklemore & Ryan Lewis should qualify, the source said. The general committee, which includes members from jazz, country, pop, rock and other genres, listened to their album to determine where they fit.

Because of the controversy with them as a rap group it became something the entire Grammy committee discussed," the person said.

A general committee vote decided the group should compete for rap awards. The source said it was a landslide vote and that veto of the rap committee's decision wasn't a common occurrence.

"It's not that they don't think he's a rapper," the person said of the rap committee's decision. "It's just that when you're trying to protect categories and someone has become popular, it should be judged as much. ... Where does their music exist? Who are their fans?"

A representative for the Recording Academy didn't return an email seeking comment, and the performers weren't available for interviews.

Macklemore & Lewis' seven Grammy nominations include best rap album, rap song and rap performance for "Thrift Shop," album of the year, song of the year Same Love" and best new artist.

Their manager used an expletive to describe the rap category debate.

"If you strip away being influenced by the popularity or by who their fans are or by the amount of radio traction their songs got ... and just dissect musically what it is, there's no question it's a hiphop album; they're hip-hop songs," said Zach Quillen, who didn't attend any of the Grammy meetings. "When you start to look at other things, (that) is when people's judgment got cloudy. It's what they look like, the demographic, the fan base, it's the popularity, it's the radio.'

Other news

■ NBC announced on Wednesday that it is renewing the "Days of Our Lives" for two more years, taking it into 2016. Alison Sweeney, who plays troublemaker Sami Brady, announced this week that she's leaving the series sometime early in 2015 after 21 years on the program. She joined the show in 1993 at age 16.

■ NBC is confirming that Bill Cosby is developing a possible new sitcom he would star in. The deal brings the 76-vear-old entertainer together with a writing staff to create a script for a comedy that casts Cosby as the patriarch of a multigenerational family.

■ Neil Patrick Harris has been named man of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals. The Emmy Award-winning actor will be given his pudding pot following a parade through Harvard Square and a roast scheduled for Feb. 7 ■ Angela Lansbury says she's relieved

that a planned remake of her classic whodunit series "Murder, She Wrote" has been canceled. Lansbury had been critical of NBC's idea of a reboot starring Octavia Spencer. The entertainment website Deadline.com reported this week that NBC was not going ahead with the show. Lansbury said Thursday she thought the remake was a bad idea from the start. She said she had "too much admiration" for Spencer "to saddle her with the awful responsibility" of having to rework the show.



Russia standing firm on anti-US adoption ban

By DAVID CRARY The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A year after Russia imposed a ban on adoptions by Americans, some affected U.S. families are reluctantly looking elsewhere to adopt. Others refuse to abandon flickering hopes of uniting with the Russian children who won their hearts.

Thirty-three of the families have filed appeals with the European Court of Human Rights, contending that the ban violates the rights of the orphans whose adoptions were thwarted. But there's no tight time frame for the case, and even a favorable ruling might be unenforceable if Russia objects.

Meanwhile, Russian authori-

ties have spurned requests from U.S. officials to reconsider the ban, and the two governments have other volatile issues on their mutual agenda - including terrorism and various foreign policy differences - as the international community prepares for the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, "I don't see movement on the

Russian side, and on the U.S. side we've heard nothing," said Diana Gerson, a New York City rabbi who had her heart set on adopting a Russian toddler. "I feel in many ways we were abandoned."

By the Russians' count, the ban halted the pending adoptions of

259 children. Roughly 230 U.S. families, some seeking to adopt more than one child, were affected - including scores of Americans who had bonded face-to-face with the children during visits to their orphanages.

The Americans have been dropped from Russia's official roster of prospective adoptive parents, and many of the orphans - possibly more than half - already have been placed with Russian families

Throughout the 12 months, the issue has occasionally resurfaced, then faded from the news spotlight.

There was a flurry of activity in May, when more than 150 members of Congress signed a letter to President Barack Obama, asking him to raise the issue with Russian President Vladimir Putin. A congressional delegation visiting Moscow urged Russian officials to allow completion of the pending adoptions. And many of the affected families visited Washington, seeking support for their

Among those who spoke in Washington was 8-year-old Jack Thomas, adopted from Russia in 2008 by Renee and John Thomas of Minnetrista, Minn. At the time the ban was imposed, the family was trying to adopt Jack's biological brother, Nikolai.

Over the past year, the family



Mark Braverman, his wife Jane Waldman, and their daughter Elaina, 12, sit on the stairs of their home in Levittown, N.Y. on Jan. 8. The couple adopted Elaina from Russia when she was nearly 4 years old in 2004 despite warnings that she had fetal alcohol syndrome.



John and Renee Thomas pose with their son Jack at their home in Minnetrista, Minn., in 2012. Jack was adopted from Russia in 2008. At the time the Russian ban on adoptions by Americans was imposed in 2013, the family was trying to adopt Jack's biological brother, Nikolai, seen in the photo Jack is holding.

has lobbied energetically to get that adoption approved because of its exceptional nature: Renee Thomas says it is apparently the only one of the disrupted adoptions involving one sibling in the U.S. and another in Russia. Thomas says she's traveling to Russia on Wednesday to make the case that Jack and Nikolai, who is now 5, should be reunited under Russian policy of trying to keep siblings together as they grow up.

"We want to respect the Russian system of justice," she said. Some of the other U.S. families could decide to adopt from other countries. Thomas said. "But there is no other option for us. It would be a travesty for the politics between the two nations to prevent these boys from growing

up together." Gerson, the New York rabbi, hasn't ruled out trying to adopt from somewhere other than Russia, but she finds it hard to cut emotional ties with the little girl she met in St. Petersburg in December 2012 — a trip she em-barked on even as the proposed ban was moving through Russia's parliament.

Gerson, who is single and of Russian descent, said the girl, whom she planned to call Olivia, was 18 months old.

"When she came into the room at the baby home with a caretaker. I pulled a toy out of my bag. and she climbed into my lap and never left," Gerson recalled. "I knew from that moment that she was my daughter."

After spending mornings and afternoons with the girl for three more days, Gerson flew back from Moscow to New York on Dec 28. On arrival, she learned that Putin had signed the ban.

In May, Gerson received a letter from Russia advising that the pending adoption had been officially vacated.

"I was told we were no longer connected," Gerson said. "It was as if I disappeared into thin air."

The adoption ban was intended in part as retaliation for a U.S. law imposing sanctions on Russians deemed to be human rights violators.

However, Russian authorities used debate on the bill to complain about mistreatment and lack of post-adoption oversight affecting Russian

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children I don't adopted by Americans, see moveincluding ment on the high-profile 2010 the Russian case where side, and an on the perated Tennessee U.S. side mother sent we've heard her 7-yearnothing. old adopted son back to Moscow I feel in many ways on a plane we were bill abandoned. 7 named after

Diana Gerson would-be parent of old a Russian toddler Yakovlev,

one of about 20 Russian adoptees who have died from abuse, neglect or other causes while in the care of their Ameri-

can parents. Adoption advocates in the U.S. express regret for those deaths. Yet they contend that the vast major ity of the 60,000 Russian children adopted by Americans over the past two decades - including many with physical or emotional disabilities — have found loving homes and a high standard of care.

While the Obama administration has been relatively quiet about the ban in recent months, some members of Congress continue to speak out.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., is the father of a 9-year-old boy adopted from Russia in 2006, and has met with both U.S. and Russian diplomats to make a case against the han

Blunt said he was particularly angry that Russia, with tens of thousands of orphans in need of families to raise them, had worked so quickly to find Russian homes for the children who had been in line to be adopted by Americans.

"In this circumstance, that's about as cruel as you could possibly be," Blunt said.

The State Department, which oversees some aspects of international adoption, held monthly conferences through July with families affected by the ban, then discontinued them for lack of new developments. However, department officials said they have continued to raise the issue with the Russians and are now planning one more outreach meeting with the U.S. families.

Jane Waldman and Mark Braverman of Levittown, N.Y., adopted a nearly 4-year-old girl from a Russian orphanage in 2004 despite warnings that the child, Elaina, had fetal alcohol syndrome.

"We fell in love with her on our first trip," Waldman said. "Even with challenges, we wanted her."

Over the ensuing years, tutors, behavioral therapists and speech therapists worked with Elaina. helping her overcome many of the impediments that had delayed her development.

Now in seventh grade, Elaina is thriving, according to her mother, with many friends and a spot on a local swim team.

Waldman is frustrated that stories of troubled adoptions in the U.S. have gained prominence in Russia, while less attention is paid to the fact that most adoptions of Russian children go well.

"Yes, there are some horror stories," she said. "But Americans, properly screened, can provide wonderful, loving homes for those children who otherwise have little hope."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Pot-related firm gets \$30M in credit

By MATT ROBINSON Bloomberg News

Advanced Cannabis Solutions whose stock has soared 447 percent this year, has obtained as much as \$30 million in credit to help acquire properties that it will lease to marijuana growers.

The agreement provides the Centennial, Colo.-based company with \$7.5 million through senior secured convertible notes sold to Full Circle Capital Corp., a closed-end investment company.

Netherlands Change in price

Turkey Change in price

EUROPE GAS PRICES

\$4.624 -6.7 cents

-2.8 cents

¢2 076

\$4.913 -7.4 cents

\$3.829 -2.6 cents

\$4.482

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\$4.445

Super E10 Super unleaded \$3.533 \$3.714

ment. The six-year obligation, which may be increased by \$22.5 million, will be backed by real estate and will require interest-only payments of 12 percent annually

Investors have sent shares of marijuana-related businesses up as much as 1,700 percent since Col-orado and Washington legalized sales to anyone 21 and older Sales in Colorado began this month and Washington expects its retailers to join around June, according to

\$4.110

\$4.966

-6.9 cents

\$4.045 -1.3 cents

¢4 207

\$3,978

\$4 277

Country

Okinawa Change in price

Japan Change in price

South Korea Change in price

Brian Smith, a spokesman for the State Liquor Control Board, which is overseeing the industry.

Eighteen states and the District of Columbia allow medical use of the drug, and 11 permit sales through dispensaries, according to the Denver-based National Conference of State Legislatures. National legalization has the potential to create a business with \$35 billion to \$45 billion of annual revenue, according to Bloomberg Industries.

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade

\$3.479

-4.0 cents

\$3.549 -3.0 cents

\$3.549** -3.0 cents

leases space to producers and vendors, had climbed to \$17.78 in New York from \$3.25 at the end of last year. The company posted a \$472,000 loss in the quarter ended Sept. 30, according to a Nov. 19 regulatory filing.

The Justice Department considers marijuana a controlled substance with no medical benefits, making banks reluctant to lend to such businesses for fear of violating federal law.

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Nasdaq	+17.24
composite	4,243.00
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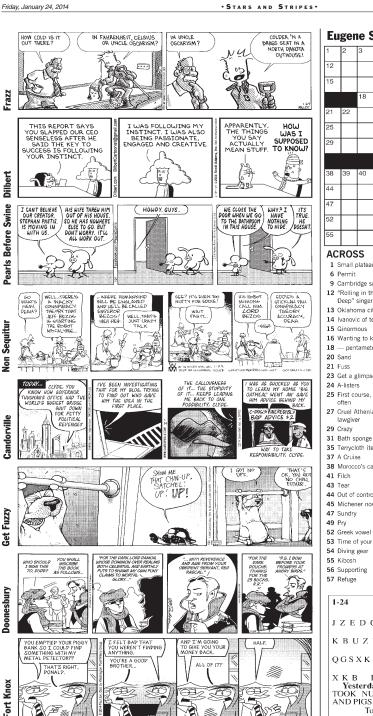
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

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X K B D R S O Z B A U Z R S O Z B A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD FARMER
TOOK NUMEROUS PICTURES OF HIS CATTLE AND PIGS. HE'S CALLING THEM STOCK PHOTOS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals Y

STARS STRIPES. | OPINION

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Frnie Gates

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Curious timing in latest Christie slam

By KATHLEEN PARKER

he question du jour is, why did Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer wait so long to step forward and level her corruption charges at Chris Christie?

As surely everyone knows by now, Zimmer claims that following Hurricane Sandy, New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno told her that Hoboken wouldn't receive relief funds unless the mayor supported a commercial development project favored by Christie.

Not surprisingly, the governor's office denies this. Guadagno denies that the conversation took place as described. An investigation has ensued

After the famous bridge closing, this amounts to a second scandal for Christie, causing enough smoke to make even a skeptic wonder if there might be fire somewhere. But the Zimmer story also seems too good — or awful — to be true. Hence. the nagging question, heard from pundits to pedestrians: Why now?

Let's take a look, dispassionately.

Zimmer's only "evidence" that the conversation took place is her passionate insis-tence that it did — and an alleged journal entry in which she expressed her disappointment in and outrage toward Christie. On this basis alone, Christie and Co. face a full-on investigation heaped on top of other investigations regarding the traffic iam. Can Democrats stick a fork in Christie yet? Certainly not for want of roasting.

The journal entry, provided to CNN and available for viewing online, is ripe for dissection. The handwriting is messy, as if the author were distraught or in a hurry, and reads in part: "I prefer typing on computer but maybe it is time to get back to journal writing. Embarrassed to say — but I found myself breaking down last night on the plane. I was watching 'Les Miserables' thinking about my dad — and so I cried for him. But then I was emotional about Governor Christie."

Hmmmm.

Zimmer seems credible and sincere. But given the size of the nail she's trying to hammer into Christie's coffin, due diligence is in order. Let's begin with the words "but maybe it's time to get back to journal writing.'

Really? Just now? Was the inspiration Les Miz? Or the bridge scandal? Her dad?





New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, left, has been implicated by Hoboken, N.J., Mayor Dawn Zimmer, right, in the latest scandal alleging bullying by Guadagno's boss, Gov. Chris Christie

Why on this particular day in May 2013 was the mayor motivated (finally) to start journal writing (again)?

One is faced with at least two possibilities: Either she's been telling herself that she really must get back to keeping a journal. Or, she's explaining to future cable interviewers why this entry appears so suddenly in a "journal" that she otherwise seems to have neglected.

The skeptic further notes that Zimmer doesn't come charging out to say Christie is just another corrupt politician. Instead she sets a stage, with no less than Les Miz. Instantly, my head is playing, "Do you hear the people sing?" while revolutionaries fight with sticks against government bullies and income inequality.

Zimmer weens first for her father (don't we all?), then for Christie. She had had such high hopes. Or, was she merely emotional because Fantine died, leaving poor Cosette without a mother? We may never know.

It is fair to imagine that we would not be so baffled were it not for the bridge scandal. This is because it seems probable that we never would have heard about Zimmer's crisis if not for the bridge mess. It apparently took other people pointing fingers at Christie for the mayor of Hoboken to locate her courage

Zimmer says she was afraid that no one would believe her, which may be true. Or maybe she was willing to keep her own counsel because, as others have claimed, Christie is a bully. Or maybe she didn't speak up because this is the way politics is played in New Jersey and she just wanted to go along. Maybe she was afraid she wouldn't get the money her town so desperately needed.

But by failing to speak up sooner and waiting until the safety of a mob had formed, Zimmer has in a sense indicted herself. Either she is — or was — as politically corrupt as those she accuses, or she is too weak to be a leader. Perhaps she is merely, plainly and simply, afraid.

Zimmer may well be telling the truth, and it also may be impossible ever to know. In the meantime, of this we can be certain. The demolition of Chris Christie, until now the best hope for a Republican presidency, got underway just as the serious fundrais-ing and politickin' were beginning.

Why now? But, of course, now.

Parker is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group

West must break Putin's grip on Ukraine the Russian ruler used to crush mass dem-

Washington Post editorial

o many Ukrainians, the calculations of President Viktor Yanukovych might seem baffling. Having triggered a mass protest movement by turning his back on an as-sociation agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the president looked like he might outlast the protesters after accepting a massive bailout from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Yet now Yanukovych has managed to revive and intensify the rebellion against him by ramming a series of measures through parliament aimed at outlawing opposition demonstrations. Tens of thousands gathered in the center of Kiev on Sunday, and clashes with police left hundreds injured. Perhaps Yanukovvch has no sense for

Ukrainian politics, despite more than a decade of leading one of its major parties. Or perhaps he is following not his own playbook but that of Putin. The repressive new restrictions, which criminalize such activity as wearing helmets and setting up tents in public spaces, look a lot like the strategy

onstrations against his regime in 2011 and 2012. Yanukovych even adopted the regulation Russia imposed on nongovernment groups that receive foreign funding - a product of Putin's paranoid conviction that pro-democracy movements in his country and elsewhere are the result of Western government plots.

This isn't the first time Yanukovych has allowed Putin to be his puppeteer. In 2004 he was a candidate for president in an election that Russia's secret services tried to rig in the way they fix votes at home. The result was the Orange Revolution, a massive uprising that overturned the fraud and left Yanukovych in the political wilderness until he agreed to play by democratic rules. It's not clear that the current protests can have the same result - in part because some opposition militants, bolstered by government-sponsored provocateurs, have attacked police and burned vehicles, tarnishing the previously peaceful character of the protest movement.

Western governments cannot control

events in Ukraine, whatever Putin may think. But they could be doing much more than they are to prevent a nation that was headed toward integration with the democratic West from becoming an autocratic Kremlin colony, like neighboring Belarus. Demoralized European Union leaders seem to have abandoned Ukraine at just the moment they should be acting to stop Yanukovych's repression. They could do so by preparing sanctions against the president and his circle to be applied if violence is used against the protesters and by dispatching a special envoy to press both sides to take seriously what so far are des-

The Obama administration has been a little more active, calling on Yanukovych to repeal the anti-protest legislation and hinting that sanctions may be forthcoming. But Washington also ought to recognize Putin's role in attempting to impose his autocratic model on a country that has been struggling to become a genuine democracy - and hold him accountable for

ultory negotiations.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Egypt hasn't earned support Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

The Obama administration is reportedly poised to ask Congress to exempt Egypt from the law that requires ending financial aid (in the case of Egypt's military, that is I billion annually) in the event of a military coup, and that would be a misreading of the situation.

Any support for such an exemption would have to be based on the belief that Egypt's recent referendum, which passed with overwhelming approval by voters, means the military leadership is actually practicing and embracing democracy.

The evidence, unfortunately, points in the opposite direction.

The most recent example is the arrest Sunday of a prominent intellectual who is accused of daring to criticize his nation's judiciary on Twitter. In Egypt, criticizing judges and the court system has long been forbidden, and apparently it remains so. How could such an impediment to free speech possibly advance democracy?

Three of these organizations were financed by the United States government and were promoting democracy. But the court held that their true objective was to "undermine Egypt's national security and lay out a sectarian, political map that serves United States and Israeli interests."

Egypt's opposition media have been shut down, and three journalists for Al Jazeera have been imprisoned without any charges. Meanwhile, the constitution adopted last weekend exempts the army, police and intelligence services from civilian control while allowing these very same arms of the government to prosecute anyone they deem threatening in military courts.

The great promise of 2011's Arab Spring, which began in Tunisia and spread very quickly to Egypt, took its time before reaching its goals in the former but has not even come close to bringing about the kind of pluralistic, democratic government so many Egyptians had in mind when they demonstrated against the stifling regime of former dictator Hosni Mubarak.

As bad as Mubarak may have been, he was at least a staunch ally of the United States, particularly on the issue of Israel's right to exist. The government now calling the shots in Cairo is no such ally, and pouring American dollars into its treasury won't change that unhappy truth.

Tax away smoking deaths Charleston (W.Va). Gazette

Incredibly, the World Health Organization says 5.4 million people around the planet suffer agonized early death each year because of tobacco smoking. Cigarettes are an international curse, the worst cause of unnecessary sickness and lost lifespan.

Tobacco firms are, in effect, drug pushers. Their profits depend on getting young people addicted to nicotine, a drug with a grip as powerful as that of heroin. As long as smokers are unable to break the addiction, tobacco profits roll in.

The latest New England Journal of Medicine says the world could avoid 200 million needless deaths by 2025 — and also gain trillions in tax revenue — if tobacco taxes were tripled worldwide, preventing millions of youths from becoming addicted.

Dr. Prabbat Jha, author of the new study, says France cut its tobacco consumption in half between 1990 and 2005 by imposing drastic tax increases. He commented:



KHALIL HAMR

Egyptians attend a rally in support of Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in Cairo on Tuesday. The military leadership of Egypt is not the same U.S. ally that ousted president Hosni Mubarak was

"Death and taxes are inevitable, but they don't need to be in that order. A higher tax on tobacco is the single most effective intervention to lower smoking rates and to deter future smokers."

He added that the United States and Canada could reap \$100 billion extra revenue each year if they merely doubled cigarette taxes.

Last year, U.N. countries set a global goal to curtail smoking by one-third by 2025 and reduce smoking-caused premature deaths by one-fourth. Sir Richard Peto, co-author of the study, observed: "Young adult smokers will lose about a decade of life if they continue to smoke. They've so much to gain by stopping."
Most American states have boosted

Most American states have boosted taxes to prevent the young from becoming addicts. The U.S. average now is around \$1.50 per pack. West Virginia lags far behind, with just a 55-cent tax — the nation's 44th lowest.

Each year, health reformers in the Legislature try to boost the state's cigarette tax, but high-paid tobacco lobbyists defeat this lifesaving attempt. As a result, West Virginia continues to have America's worst smoking rate — an ugly distinction. With the 2014 Legislature in full swing,

With the 2014 Legislature in full swing, conscientious senators and delegates who oppose unnecessary sickness and death among West Virginians — and who see a need for extra revenue — should rally behind an effort to help this state catch up with the rest of America.

Syria conference important Los Angeles Times

Expectations are understandably low for an international peace conference on Syria that opens Wednesday in Switzerland. It isn't just that the meeting almost didn't happen because of a dispute over whether representatives of Iran would attend.

There's also the fact that Russia, which has spearheaded the so-called Geneva II meeting with the United States, may be paying only lip service to the premise of the talks: that they will produce a 'transitional governing body' in Damascus, with President Bashar Assad ceding at least some power. And the rebels who are grudgingly participating in the conference don't speak for all of Assad's opponents. Finally, Assad may believe that his hand has been strengthened not only by battlefield victories but by the legitimacy he has gained by agreeing to surrender chemical weapons.

No wonder a senior U.S. official cautioned that "this is the beginning of a process. It is not going to be fast."

But even if the odds of success are long, the Obama administration was right to press for the convening of Geneva II (which is actually taking place in the lakeside community of Montreux). It is at least possible that the conference will help to stop the killing, speed humanitarian assistance and lay the groundwork for a political transition.

Although Russia blocked a resolution at the United Nations that would have forced Assad to step aside, there are signs that its patience with him may be limited. The U.S. also believes there are elements in the Assad government that seek what a State Department official called a "way out" from a civil war that has killed more than 100,000 people, uprooted more than 2 million and ravaged Syria's infrastructure. And although the U.N. secretary-general withdrew an invitation for Iran, an Assad ally, to participate in the conference, it's not out of the question, as Secretary of State John F. Kerry has suggested, that Iran could play a constructive role on the sidelines.

Some critics insist that instead of concentrating on the diplomatic track, the Obama administration should have made good long ago on the president's repeated statements that Assad "has to go" by providing significant military aid to rebel forces. But it's too gilb to suggest that it would have been easy for the U.S. to earmark lethal assistance to the "right" rebels.

Because of Assad's brutal repression of peaceful dissent, Syria was plunged into a civil war that has become a humanitarian nightmare. But this page has been concerned that a strategy of toppling Assad at all costs could have unintended consequences, including a chaotic struggle for control of the country and, potentially, the empowerment of groups sympathetic to al-Qaida. Though far from guaranteed to succeed, the search for a political solution remains the better alternative.

Alaska mine a bad idea The Seattle Times

Three years of study and review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency put science on the side of opponents of a massive copper and gold mine planned for Alaska's salmon-rich Bristol Bay.

EPA's final watershed assessment concludes the mine is a direct threat to the health of the source of 46 percent of the world's wild sockeye salmon.

world's wild sockeye salmon.

The environmental and economic devastation at risk with the proposed Pebble Mine is on an epic scale.

The report helped move U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, to announce this week his opposition to it as the wrong mine in the wrong place.

EPA states that up to 94 miles of streams would be destroyed. Wastewater issues and treatment failures threaten an additional 48 to 62 miles of streams.

Add in 5,300 acres of wetlands that

would be damaged by the mining proposal, according to the EPA's findings.

Economic trauma wrought by the Pebble Mine radiates out in the same concentric circles suffered by the environment.

The EPA report put a value of \$674 million on the salmon fishing and processing spread across Washington, Oregon and California. That translates to 12,000 seasonal jobs and 6,000 full-time jobs. Bristol Bay's salmon fishery also powers trade with Japan and China. All that is put at risk.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash, noted last week that nearly 1,000 Washingtonians hold commercial fishing permits in Bristol Bay. Recreational fishing adds an additional \$75 million for Washington business, Cantwell said in a statement.

Large-scale mining in Bristol Bay was a bad idea from the start. In September, one of the partners in the plan, London-based Anglo American, pulled out, leaving Canada's Northern Dynasty Minerals.

Though the EPA describes the assessment as a technical resource, and not a final decision, the warning lights are flashing.

Hard evidence on the environmental devastation and the economic losses, and the hardships for Alaska Native cultures, all work against a terrible idea.

Preserve cellphone privacy Los Angeles Times

Forty years ago, when the Supreme Court expanded the right of police to search people they took into custody as well as the possessions they were carrying, the smartphone was the stuff of science fiction. Now that phones contain vast amounts of personal information, the court should rule that cellphone searches require a warrant.

Last week, the justices agreed to review two lower court decisions that came to different conclusions about the privacy of cellphone data. In a California case, a state court upheld the conviction of David Leon Riley, who was initially pulled over because his car had expired tags. After police found guns in the car, they arrested Riley and searched through what one detective called "lots of stuff" on his smartphone, including a photo showing Riley and another man posing near a car that had been involved in a shooting.

In the other case, the U.S. 1st Circuit of Appeals in Boston ruled that police may not conduct warrantless searches of data on cellphones seized from people who have been arrested. The case involved Brima Wurie, whose comparatively primitive flip phone displayed calls from a number identified as "my house." When police went to the address associated with that number, they found a mailbox labeled with Wurie's name. After obtaining a warrant, police searched the house and found crack cocaine, marijuana, cash and a firearm.

Police long have been allowed to conduct warrantless searches of people they arrest because of the possibility that a suspect might have a concealed weapon or try to destroy evidence. But in 1973, the Supreme Court unjustifiably held that such searches were legal even when there was no probability that weapons or evidence would be found. The invasion of privacy permitted by that ruling multiplies exponentially when the object searched is a smartphone.

Ideally the court would endorse the 1st Circuit's holding that warrantless searches of cellphones are always unconstitutional. But the court also could draw a distinction between the search of Wurie's phone, on which the call register was easily accessed, and the more intrusive search of Riley's smartphone.

When the framers of the Constitution wrote of the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches," they couldn't have foreseen that "papers and effects" would be housed in a palm-sized device. The court should rule that the principle of privacy is the same.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.



Tennis

Australian Onen

Thursday At Melbourne Park

Melbourne, Australia Purse: \$29.72 million (Grand Slam) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Men

Semifinals Stanislas Wawrinka (8), Switzerland, def. Tomas Berdych (7), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).

Women Semffinals Li Na (4), China, def. Eugenie Bouchard (30), Canada, 6-2, 6-4. Dominika Cibulkova (20), Slovakia, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (5), Poland, 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles Men

broundes Men Semifinals Semifinals Semifinals Semifinals Semifinals States, and Raven Klausen, South Africa, Jeft Daniel West, Semina, Klauser, South Africa, Jeft Daniel West, Semina, George Seminals S

6-7 (12), 6-3. Mixed Quarterfinals
Sania Mirza, India, and Horia Tecau (6), Romania, def. Julia Goerges, Germany, and Alsam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Daniel Nestor, Canada, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Leander Paes, India, 6-3, 6-3.

AP sportlight

Jan. 24 1939 — Eddie Collins, Wee Willie Kee-ler and George Sisler are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Baseball Hall of Fame.

1956 — Bob Pettit of the St. Louis Hawks captures the first of his NBA record four All-Star MVP awards. Petti leads the West team with 20 points and 24 rebounds in a 108-94 win over the East.

1981 — Mike Bossy of the New York Is-landers scores his 50th goal in the 50th game of the season in a 7-3 victory over the Quebec Nordioues.

game of the season in a 1-3 victory over the Quebec Nordiques. 1982 — Ray Wersching kicks a Super Bowl record-tying four field goals to help the San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincin-nati Bengals 26-21. 1986 — Mike Bossy of the New York

nati Bengals 26-21.

1986 — Mike Bossy of the New York Islanders scores his 1,000th career point with an assist in a 7-5 victory over the Toronto Maple Learn—Salem State basket-ball coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines wins his 800th career game, 79-70 over Livingstone.

wins his 800th career game, 79-70 over Uningstone. Derver Nuggets snap their record tyling, single-season losing streak 123 games, beating the Los Angeles Clippers 99-81. When the shape of the shape o

2007 - Colorado's Joe Sakic has four 2007 — Colorado's Joe Sakic has four assists to lead the Western Conference to a 12-9 victory in the NHL All-Star game. Daniel Briere, one of three starters from Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo, has a goal and four assists and is selected the MVP.

2008 – Miral Nagasu pulls off one of the biggest upsets ever at the U.S. Figure Schating Championships. The Li-Year-old Schating Championships. The Li-Year-old Figure 1997 – Winstein Schating Championships. The wins the short program with a spec-cular performance. Her score of 70:23 is the second-highest ever by an Ameri-cular performance. Her score of 70:23 is the second-highest ever by an Ameri-cular performance the research of the Oris Barries in the final of the 48th Tour-

nament of Champions. Kulick outscores Barnes 265-195 to take home the \$40,000 first prize and a two-year PBA Tour ex-

emption. 2010 — The New Orleans Saints make

2010 - The New Orleans Saints make it to their first Super Bowl after battering Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings Hartley's 40-yard field goal.

2011 - Rudy Gay hits a tiebreaking unper with less than a second to play unper with less than a second to play struggling fromto. The short-handed Raptors finish 40-for-13 from three-point range, falling to make a three for the first time in 956 games.

Pro football

NFL playoffs Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 4

Saturday, Jan. 4 Indianapolis 45, Kansas City 44 New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24 Sunday, Jan. 5 San Diego 27, Cincinnati 10 San Francisco 23, Green Bay 20 Divisional Playoffs

Divisional Playoffs
Seattle aturday, Jan. 11
Sew England 43, Indianpolis 22
San Francisco 23, Carolina 10
Denver 24, San Diego 17
Conference Championships
Denver 26, New England 16
Seattle 23, San Francisco 17
FOR Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
Team Rice vs. Team Sanders

At Honolubu
Team Rice vs. Team Sanders
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
At East Rutherford, N.J.
Denver vs. Seattle

NFL injury report

NEW YORK - The updated National ootball League injury report, as provid-

Football League injury report, as provid-S4 TIE 624AWKS a 10ENVER BRON-COS — SEAHAWKS: DNP; WR Doug Bald-in (fib); RR Marshawn i, prof. (finee), DT Harvin (concussion), BRONCOS: DNP; DT Mitch Unrein (knee), LIMITED; RR Know-shom Moreno (fibs), FULL: CB Tony Carter Terrance Knighton (knee), C Chiri Kuper (ankle), QB Peyton Manning (ankle), CB Kayono Website (flumb).

Pro Rowl rosters Sunday, Jan. 26 At Aloha Stadium

Honolulu TEAM RICE John Abraham, Arizona Cardinals,

.B Justin Bethel, Arizona Cardinals, ST Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints, QB Vontaze Burfict, Cincinnati Bengals.

B Jairus Byrd, Buffalo Bills, FS Antonio Cromartie, New York Jets, CB Marcell Dareus, Buffalo Bills, DT Jahri Evans, New Orleans Saints, G Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals,

WR Brandon Flowers, Kansas City Chiefs,

CB Matt Forte Chicago Bears, RB Tony Gonzalez, Atlanta Falcons, TE Josh Gordon, Cleveland Browns, WR Stephen Gostkowski, New England Pa-triots, K Jimmy Graham, New Orleans Saints. TE

Jordan Gross, Carolina Panthers,

Jordan Gross, Carolina Panthers, T Ben Grubbs, New Orleans Saints, G Joe Haden, Cleveland Browns, CB Jason Hatcher, Dallas Cowboys, DT Johnny Hekker, St. Louis Rams, P Justin Houston, Kansas City Chiefs, OLB Alshon Jeffery, Chicago Bears, WR Derrick Johnson, Kansas City Chiefs.

ILB Cameron Jordan, New Orleans Saints,

Wednesday's transactions BASEBALL
MLB — Suspended minor league RHP
Andrew Pierce (State College-NYP) 50
games after testing positive for an amphetamine in violation of baseball's mi-

phetamine in violation of baseball's mi-nor league drug program.

American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms
with OF Grady Sizemore on a one-year
contract. Designated RHP Brayan Villar-real for assignment.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Named Bo

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Named Bo Jackson a team ambassador. Agreed to NEW YORK YAMRES — Agreed to Seven-year contract. Designated LHP David Huff for assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with LHP — Lesignated UP David Huff for assignment. — Corresponding to the Corresponding

RHP Brad Boxberger and RHP Matt Lol

S... SANETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS — Signed G Mike
ames to a 10-day contract.
POOTBALL
NATIONAL MATERIAL CONS. — Named Scott
folia assistant general manager.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Named Mike
ope tight end coach.

pe tight end coach.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed DT
eeston Randall to a reserve/future

ensive line coach.

NEW YORK GIANTS - Named Craig

contract.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Announced the retirement of assistant head coach/offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia. Named Dave DeGuglielmo

/1B Lucas Duda on a one-yea ontract.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Acquired LHP
Alex Torres and RHP Jesse Hahn from
Tampa Bay for INF Logan Forsythe, INF
Maxx Tissenbaum, RHP Matt Andriese,

Deals

Rvan Kalil, Carolina Panthers, C. Ryan Kalii, Carolina Panthers, C Nick Mangold, New York Jets, C Brandon Marshall, Chicago Bears, WR Evan Mathis, Philadelphia Eagles, G Robert Mathis, Indianapolis Colts, OLB

B Dexter McCluster, Kansas City Chiefs, ! LeSean McCov. Philadelphia Eagles.

LeSean McCoy, Philadeipnia Lugnou, RB DeMarco Murray, Dallas Cowboys, RB Matt Overton, Indianapolis Colts, LS Robert Quinn, St. Louis Rams, DE St. Louis Rams, DE Philip Rivers, San Diego Chargers, OB Antrel Rolle, New York Giants, SS. Alex Smith, Kansas City Chiefs, QB Tyron Smith, Dallas Cowboys, T Ine Thomas, Cleveland Browns, T

Joe Thomas, Cleveland Browns, T Mike Tolbert, Carolina Panthers, FB Alterraun Verner, Tennessee Titans, CR Cameron Wake, Miami Dolphins, DE Kyle Williams, Buffalo Bills, DT TEAM SANDERS

TEAM SANDERS

Cam Newton, Carolina Panthers, QB
Brandon Fields, Miami Dolphins, P
Nick Foles, Philadelphia Eagles, QB
Justin Tucker, Baltimore Ravens, k
DeSean Jackson, Philadelphia Eagles,

R Andrew Luck, Indianapolis Colts, QB A.J. Green, Cincinnati Bengals, WR Matthew Slater, New England Patri-

ots, ST Brent Grimes, Miami Dolphins, CB Patrick Peterson, Arizona Cardin CB Darrelle Revis, Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers, CB Jamaal Charles, Kansas City Chiefs, RB

Tim Jennings, Chicago Bears, CB Eddie Lacy, Green Bay Packers, RB Eric Berry, Kansas City Chiefs, SS Eric Weddle, San Diego Chargers, FS TJ. Ward, Cleveland Browns, SS JJ. Jansen, Carolina Panthers, LS Marcel Reece, Oakland Raiders, FB Alfred Morris, Washington Redskins,

Paul Posluszny, Jacksonville Jaguars,

B Alex Mack, Cleveland Browns, C Terrell Suggs, Baltimore Ravens, OLB Luke Kuechly, Carolina Panthers, ILB Mike Pouncey, Miami Dolphins, C C Logan Mankins, New England Patriots, Trent Williams, Washington Redskins,

Marshal Yanda, Baltimore Rayens, G Marshai Yanda, Baitimore Ravens, G Kyle Long, Chicago Bears, G Branden Albert, Kansas City Chiefs, T Duane Brown, Houston Texans, T Greg Hardy, Carolina Panthers, DE Jason Witten, Dallas Cowboys, TE Antonio Brown, Pittsburgh Steelers, P

R Jordan Cameron Cleveland Browns Cordarrelle Patterson, Minnesota Vi-

Cordarrelle Fatterson, kings, PR Dez Bryant, Dallas Cowboys, WR Ndamukong Suh, Detroit Lions, DT Tamba Hali, Kansas City Chiefs, OLB Dontari Poe, Kansas City Chiefs, DT Gerald McCoy, Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers, DT Mario Williams, Buffalo Bills, DE Brian Orakpo, Washington Redskins, OLB J.J. Watt, Houston Texans, DE

Johnson running backs coach.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed QB
Pathol-Thompson, T Carter

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed QB MCLeod Bethel-Thompson, T Carter Bykoski, S DJ Campbell, RB Jewel Hampon, G Al Netter, NT Mike Purcell, WRS David Reed, Chuck Jacobs, Devon Wylie and DeMarco Sampson, P Colton Schmidt, CB

reserve/future contracts.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Named Mike TENNESSEE TITANS — Named Mike Mularkey tight ends coach. HOCKEY National Hockey League BUFFALO SABRES — Called up F Phil Varone from Rochester (AHL). Assigned D Brayden McNabb and F Kevin Porter to

Rochester.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS - Recalled
COUND Bass from Springfield (AHL). ReMONTH ROCHEST - Recalled
COMMINISTORY WILD - Reassigned G Johan Gustafsson to lowa (AHL).

NASHYILLE PREDATORS - Traded D
Kevin Klein to the New York Rangers for
Michael Del Zotto.

D Michael Del Zotto.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned LW
Reid Boucher to Albany (AHL).

American Hockey League
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Released F
Ryley Grantham from his professional

yley Grantham from his professional ryout agreement. SOCCER Major League Soccer CHIVAS USA — Signed D Tony Loch-

head.

D.C. UNITED — Re-signed D Chris

dany Alvarez.

TORONTO FC — Announced a one-year partnership agreement with Wilmington FC (USL Pro).

orb.
ORLANDO CITY SC — Signed MF Yornov Alvarez.

C(USL Prò).

COLLEGE
CALIFORNIA — Named Art Kaufman
efensive coordinator.
TULSA — Named Josh Blankenship
uarterbacks coach.
UAB — Named Bill Clark football

coach.
VIRGINIA UNION - Named Mark James

College basketball

Wednesday's men's scores

Wednesday's men's scores

American U. 86, Boston U. 56

Army 66, Colgate 63

Baruch 65, Hunter 62, Mary 68, Colgate 63

Baruch 65, Hunter 62, Mary 68, Colgate 63

Baruch 65, Hunter 62, Mary 68, Mary 68

Coastal Carolina 84, Presbyterian 72 Coll. of Charleston 75, UNC Wilming

Coll. of Charesum 1.6, Sec. 1.00
To 17, Miam 146
District Mennenite 80, Washington & Lee 74
Georgia 97, South Carolina 76
Guilford 74, Hampden-Sydney 72,
Johns Hopkins 91, Washington (Md), 33
Johnson C. Smith 84, St. Augustine 80
Johnson C. Smith 84, St. Augustine 80
Limeston e76, Erskine 60
Limeston e76, Erskine 60
Lincoln Memorial 88, Mars Hill 60
Lincoln Memorial 88, Mars Hill 60 kentucky Wesleyon 101, Obkland City 65
Limestone 76, Fr. Skine 65, 411
Linestone 176, Fr. Skine 65, 411
Linestone 176, Liberty 66
Linestone 176, Liberty 66
Linestone 176, Liberty 67
Linestone 176, Liberty 67
L

Minnesota 81, Wisconsin 68 Ripon 95, Lawrence 81

Minnesota 81, Wisconsin 68
Rijon 95, Lawrence 81
Rijon 95, Lawrence 81
Rijon 95, Lawrence 81
St. Olaf 52, Carleton 47
St. Olaf 52, Carleton 47
Toledo 77, N. Illinois 58
St. Olaf 52, Carleton 47
Toledo 77, N. Illinois 58
William Penn 84, Viterbo 89
Wilsin Penn 84, Viterbo 89
Wilsin Penn 84, Viterbo 89
Wilsin Penn 84, Viterbo 89
Wis- La Crosse 88, Wis-Wilkewater 83
Wis- Oshkosh 64, Wis- Eau Claire 32
Wis- Schkosh 64, Wis- Eau Claire 32
Wis- Steven SOUTHWEST
Platteville 61
Nexada 96, Fresto 51, 86, 20T
Oregon 51, 66, Washington 51, 55
San Diego 51, 75, San Jose 51, 50
XIVI 92
Wilsin St. 42
Wilsin 69
Wi

Men's schedule

Quinnipiac at Iona Rider at Manhattan Marist at Niagara Vermont at Stony Brook SOUTH Lipscomb at N. Kentucky MIDWEST Detroit at Milwaukee

Wednesday's women's scores

Pednesday's women's scores
East
American Lo 63, Boston U. 56
Army 62, Colgable Collection St. 37
Bucknell 67, Loyola (Md.) 60
Chatham 77, Thiel 69
Dayton 81, UMass 67, om 69
Dominican (Ny) 81, Caldwell 72
Holy Cross 75, Lafayette 68
Hunter 70, Baruch 67
John Joy 50, CCN
Johns Hopkins 25, Washington (Md.)

Navy 73, Lehigh 61 Penn 74, Temple 70 Penn St. 65, Indiana 52 Saint Joseph's 75, George Washington

St. Bonaventure 63, Rhode Island 55 St. John's 59, Villanova 52 UConn 83, Memphis 49 William Paterson 74, College of NJ 50

William Paterson 74, College of NJ 50 SOUTH Bowie St. 51, Virginia Union 49 Carson-Newman 88, Tusculum 72 Duquesne 77, VCU 65 E. Mennonite 83, Bridgewater (Va.) 73 East Carolina 53, Rice 47 E. Mennonite 83, Bridgewater (Va.) 73
East Carolina S., Rijce 47
East Carolina S., Rijce 47
Guilford 58, Emory & Henry 47
Guilford 58, Emory 8, Guilford 58
Guilford 58, Emory 8, Guilford 58
Guilford 58, Emory 8, Guilford 58
Guilford 58, Emory 68
Guilford 58
Guilford 58, Emory 68
Guilford 58, Emo

Carthage 71, Elmhurst 33 Cent. Michigan 87, Kent St. 53 Concordia (Mich.) 62, Aquinas 57 Concordia (Mocn.) 68, Macalester 40 Cornerstone 74, Siena Heights 69 Gustavus 75, Hamline 52 Hope 63, Albion 47

Cornerstone 74, Siena Heights 69
Hube 33, Mills 19
Lawrence Tech 74, Siena Heights 69
Hube 63, Albion 47 ne 52
Hube 63, Albion 47 ne 52
Hube 63, Albion 47, Mary Grow 53
Lawrence Tech 74, Mary Grow 52
Hidland 72, Doane 69, 19
Hube 74, Sal, Valley City 5, 61
Hube 74, Sal, Valley City 6, 61
Hube 74, Sal, Valley 74, 61

FAR WEST
Boise St. 74, New Mexico 60
Nevada 63, Fresno St. 60
San Diego St. 88, San Jose St. 65
UNLV 73, Utah St. 67
Wyoming 82, Air Force 47

Women's schedule

Friday
EAST
Canisius at Fairfield
Iona at Momnouth (N.J.)
Siena at Rider
Brown at Yale
MIDWEST
Bradley at N. Iowa
Loyola of Chicago at Drake
FAR WEST
Southern Cal At California

Southern Cal at California Arizona at Colorado Washington at Oregon St. Arizona St. at Utah Washington St. at Oregon UCLA at Stanford

Boxing

Fight schedule

N.J., Curtis Stevens vs. Patrick Majew-ski, 10, middleweights; Thabiso Mchunu vs. Olanrewaju Durodola, 10, cruiser-

vs. Orali ewaje vs. weights.
At Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, Ca-lift, Cornelius Bundrage vs. Joey Hernandez, 12, IBF junior middleweight eliminator; Antonio Orozco vs. Miguel Angel

Jan. 25

Jan. 25
At Stuttgart, Germany, Marco Huck vs.
Firat, Arslan, 12, for Huck's WBO cruiserweight title.
New York, Mikey Garcia vs. Juan
Carlos Burgos, 12, for Garcia's WBO junior lightweight title: Bryant Jennings vs.
Artur Szpilka, 10, heavyweights: Seanie
Monaghan vs. Fabio Garrido, 10, lightheavyweights.

Monaghan vs. Fabio Garrido, 10, light heavyweights, At DC Armory, Washington, Lamont Peterson vs. Dierry Jean, 12, for Peter-son's IBF junior welterweight title; Jer-mell Charlo vs. Gabriel Rosado, 10, junior niddleweights. At The Golden Nugget, Atlantic City, N.J., Derric Rossy vs. Joey Dawejko, 10, heavyweights.

Jan. 24 At Resorts International, Atlantic City,

nator; Antonio Orozco vs. Miguel Angel Huerta, 10, junior welterweights. At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash., Javier Molina vs. Kendall Holt, 10, welterweights; Rico Ramos vs. Jonathan Arrellano, 10, featherweights.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Roundup

Minnesota knocks off reeling Wisconsin

Gophers top No. 9 Badgers despite losing starting guard Hollins in opening minute

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Things couldn't have started any worse for Minnesota. Andre Hollins hurt his left ankle just 16 seconds into the game and didn't return.

The Golden Gophers have a lot more to offer than just their leading scorer, though, as ninthranked Wisconsin was reminded.

DeAndre Mathieu and Mo Malker each scored 18 points, an outside-inside combination that pushed the Gophers to an 81-68 win Wednesday over the Badgers, who took their third straight loss.

"We've got very good chemistry. When things are clicking, it's tough to overcome," Minnesota coach Richard Pitino said. "I think these guys truly believe that the whole is greater than the parts."

Malik Smith added 14 points, including a shot clock-beating three-pointer with 39 seconds left. Austin Hollins had 11 points and four steals for the Gophers (15-5, 4-3 Big Ten). Walker grabbed nine rebounds, and Mathieu went 8-for-13 from the floor.

"Nobody likes the Badgers. We've always got to beat the Badgers," Walker said.

Sam Dekker led Wisconsin (16-3, 3-3) with 20 points and six rebounds. Nigel Hayes added 12 points and Frank Kaminsky and Josh Gasser had nine points

But the conference's best threepoint shooting team never held the lead, unable to get that perimeter game going. The Badgers finished 5-for-20 from behind the arc, and didn't fare any better around the basket. Letting the Gophers do almost whatever they wanted inside, whether throwback post moves or drive-and-dish layups, the Badgers were outscored 48-24 in the paint.

Mathieu has a deftly effective, floating jump shot in the lane that he used on back-to-back possessions sandwiched around a steal by the Gophers to push their lead to 61-49. A few minutes later, the old arena rocked as loudly as it had all season when Austin Hollins soared over the defense to drop in a one-handed slam from the baseline and draw a foul with 5:54 left. The three-point play put Minnesota in front 66-54.



Іім Мон

Minnesota's Austin Hollins dunks the ball after being fouled by Wisconsin's Nigel Hayes, right, in the second half of Wednesday's 81-68 win over the ninth-ranked Badzers in Minneapolis.

"It's just miscommunication there on that one," Dekker said. "Two guys went separate ways, and Hollins got in there for the big 'and one.' That's the story of how it's been the past few games. It's something we have to correct."

something we have to correct."
No. 5 Wichta St. 70, Illinois
St. 55: Cleanthony Early scored
23 points as the visiting Shockers (20-0, 7-0 Missouri Valley)
erased a halftime deficit to defeat
the Redbirds (11-8, 4-3).

No. 7 San Diego St. 75, San Jose St. 50: Xavier Thames scored 15 points and the Aztecs (17-1, 6-0 Mountain West) extended the second-longest winning streak in school history to 16 games with a victory over the host Spartans(6-13, 0-7).

No. 21 Michigan 75, No. 10 lowa 67: Nik Stauskas scored 26 points and the host Wolverines (14-4, 6-0) held off the Hawkeyes (15-4, 4-2) to remain unbeaten in

Big Ten play.

No. 12 Louisville 86, South Florida 47: Wayne Blackshear scored 16 points to pace a balanced offense that carried the visiting Cardinals (17-3, 6-1 American Athletic Conference) to a rout of the Bulls (10-9, 1-5).

Richmond 58, No. 13 Massachusetts 55: Kendall Anthony scored 21 points and the host Spiders (13-6, 3-1 Atlantic 10) hung on in the final minute to end a six-game winning streak for the Minutemen (16-2, 3-1).

No. 18 Duke 67, Miami 46: Jabari Parker had 17 points and a season-high 15 rebounds as the Blue Devils (15-4, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) earned its first league road win of the season by beating host Miami (10-8, 2-4).

Army 66, Colgate 63: Dylan Cox scored 12 points, including a bucket for the lead in the final 21 seconds, as the Black Knights (10-8, 6-1 Patriot) beat the host Raiders (7-11, 1-6).

Cox led the Black Knights in rebounds with 10. Kyle Wilson scored 15 points and Josh Herbeck had 16 off the bench.

Down by nine early in the second period, Army went on a 17-4 run to lead 48-46 with 11 minutes to play. Colgate came back to go back up by one with 36 seconds on the clock. On the next Army possession, Cox missed a jumper, grabbed his own rebound, and sank a layup to put the Black Knights up 64-63 with 21 seconds to play. Wilson was fouled and hit 2 of 2 from the line as time ran out to seal the win for Army.

Lehigh 68, Navy 66 (0T):
Makkey McKnight scored in the
final second of overtime to help
the Mountain Hawks (9-11, 2-5
Patriot League) break a fivegame losing streak and beat over
the host Midshipmen (7-11, 2-5
Sfor the eighth-straight time.

The Mountain Hawks had trailed much of the second half, catching up at 47-47 on a Stefan Cvrkail three-pointer and forging overtime at 58-58 when McKnight scored with 19 seconds letter Lehigh's Jesse Chuku blocked a Navy shot (he had five of Lehigh's six) as the Midshipmen missed

twice in the final four seconds of

Worth Smith and Zach Fong hit three-pointers in OT for Navy, the latter forcing a 66-66 the with 22 seconds to play. After a time out, McKnight dribbled upcourt and, at six seconds, drove strong from the right side, banking his winner off the glass.

Smith scored a career-high 26 for Navy and McKnight finished with 11 for Lehigh.

Wyoming 66, Air Force 59: Larry Nance Jr. had 20 points and nine rebounds to lead the Cowboys (12-6, 3-2 Mountain West) over the host Falcons (9-9, 3-4).

Nathan Sobey's three-pointer with 3:59 left put Wyoming ahead 56-54, its first lead since the opening minutes.

Air Force went back in front 57-56 on Tre' Coggins' three-pointer with 3:22 left. Nance answered with two free throws to give the Cowboys the lead for good.

Nance scored six of his points in the final four minutes as the Cowboys ended the game on a 10-2 run. Josh Adams chipped in 17 points for Wyoming. Kamryn Williams had 17 points

to lead Air Force, which led 30-15 with five minutes left in the first half.





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NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division								
	W	L	Pct	GB				
Toronto	21	20	.512	_				
Brooklyn	18	22	.450	21/2				
New York	15	27	.357	61/2				
Boston	15	29	.341	71/2				
Philadelphia	14	28	.333	71/2				
Southeast	Divis	ion						
Miami	30	12	.714	-				
Atlanta	22	19	.537	71/2				
Washington	20	21	.488	91/2				
Charlotte	19	25	.432	12				
Orlando	11	32	.256	191/2				
Central D		on						
Indiana	33	8	.805	-				
Chicago	21	20	.512	12				
Detroit	17	25	.405	161/2				
Cleveland	15	27	.357	181/2				
Milwaukee	8	33	.195	25				
14/ 1 0								

Western Co	nfe	ren	ce	
Southwest	Divis	sion		
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	32	10	.762	-
Houston	29	15	.659	4
Dallas	25	19		8
Memphis	20		.500	11
New Orleans	_16_	. 25	.390	151/2
Northwest				
Oklahoma City	33	10	.767	-
Portland	31	11	.738	11/2
Denver	20	20	.500	111/2
Minnesota	20	21		12
Utah	14	29	.326	19
Pacific Di	visio			
L.A. Clippers	29	15	.659	
Golden State	26	17	.605	21/2
Phoenix	24	17	.585	31/2
L.A. Lakers	16	26	.381	12
Sacramento _	15	26	.366	121/2
Tuesday's	gam	ies		
Brooklyn 101, Orlan		0		
Miami 93 Roston 86				

Miami 93, Boston 86
Oklahoma City 105, Portland 97
Sacramento 114, New Orleans 97
Minnesota 112, Utah 97
Wednesday's games
Atlanta 112, Orlando 109
Boston 113, Washington 111, OT
Chicago 98, Cleveland 87
Charlotte 95, LA. Clippers 91
Philadelphika 110, New York 106 Toronto 93, Dallas 85.

Philadelphia 110, New York 106
Houston 119, Sacramento 98
Houston 119, Sacramento 98
Kilahoma Cily 111, San Antonio 105
Phoenix 124, Indiana 100
Phoenix 124, Indiana 100
La Lakuers at Miamu
Denwer a Friday's games
LA Lakers at Orlando
Toronto at Philadelphia

Joronto at Philadelphia Dallas at Brooklyn Oklahoma City at Boston Milwaukee at Cleveland New Orleans at Detroit San Antonio at Atlanta Charlotte at New York L.A. Clippers at Chicago

Wednesday Suns 124, Pacers 100

Thunder 111, Spurs 105

OKLAHOMA CITY - Durant 12-22 10-11 36, Ibaka 7-14 0-0 14, Perkins 1-3 0-0 2, Jackson 12-17 0-0 27, Sefolosha 1-4 0-3 2, Lamb 4-11 0-0 9, Adams 0-2 1-2 1, Fisher 3-4 0-0 9, Collison 3-3 0-0 6, Jones 2-3 0-0 5 Totals (4-9-3) 1-16 11

3-4 0-9, Collision 3-3 0-0 6, Jones 2-3 0-0 5. Totals 48-83 11-16 111.

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 1-2 0-0 3, Duncan 6-10 2-6 14, Ayres 1-3 1-2 3, Parker 1-4:22 8-8 37, Belinelli 6-10 0-0 13, Ginobili 3-9 2-4 10, Diaw 5-8 2-2 14, Mills 3-6 0-0 9, Joseph 1-3 0-0 2, Bonner 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 40-75 15-22 105.

Oklahoma City 30 25 21 35-1115
San Antonio 24 29 22 39-105

San Antonie 24 29 22 30–105
Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City
10-18 (Jackson 3-3, Fisher 3-4, Durant
2-4, Jones 1-2, Lamb 1-4, Ibaka 0-1), San
Antonio 10-22 (Mills 3-4, Diaw 2-2, Gino1-4, Joseph 0-1). Fouled Out-None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 45 (Ibaka 9), San
Antonio 40, Qiuncan 13). Assists—OklaAntonio 40, Qiuncan 13, Assists—OklaAntonio 40, Qiuncan 13, Assists—OklaGlyres, Parker 4), Total Fouls—Oklahoma
City 25, San Antonio 17. Technicals—
Fisher, Mills, San Antonio Coach Popovich A—18,581 (18,797).



Wizards forward Nene, front, is fouled by Celtics forward Brandon Bass in the second half Wednesday in Washington. The Celtics won 113-111 in

Bucks 104, Pistons 101

DETROIT — Smith 2-10 4-8 8, Monroe 7-11 4-6 18, Drummond 4-7 3-4 11, Jennings 1-23 5-6 30, Caldwell-Pope 3-8 2-2-9, Sin-gler 0-7 0-0 0, Stuckey 8-16 7-8 23, Byrum 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 36-84 25-34 101. MILWAUKE — Ilyasova 6-13 0-0 12, Henson 6-9 0-4 12, Udoh 1-3 2-2-4, Knight

Henson 6-9 0-4 12, Udoh 1-3 2-2 4, Knight 5-17 4-8 16, Antetokoumpo 1-3 2-2 4, Middleton 3-6 2-2 10, Butler 12-21 4-4 30, Middleton 3-6 2-2 10, Butler 12-21 4-4 30, Betroit 14-22 104, 8). Assists—Detroit 21 (Smith 6), Milwau-kee 29 (Knight 9). Total Fouls—Detroit 15, Milwaukee 24. A—11,266 (18,717).

Rockets 119, Kings 98

Rockets 119, Kings 98
SACRAMENTO — Gay 2-50 0-4, Thompson 6-8 0-12, Cousins 12-0-2 2, Thomas 6-16-10.20, Thomas 7-2-12, Cousins 12-0-2 2, Thomas 7-2-12, Cousins 12-0-2 2, Thomas 7-2-12, Cousins 9-2-2 4, Milliams 7-2-2, Cousins 9-2-2, Milliams 7-2-2, Cousins 9-2-2-2, Milliams 7-2-2, Milliams 7-2-2, Cousins 9-2-2-2, Milliams 7-2-2, Milliams 7-2-2,

ington 2-5 0-0 5, Brooks 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 29 22-29 25-98
Houston 29 28 33 31-119
Three-Point Goals—Scaramento 12-30
(Fredette 4-6, Williams 3-6, McLemore -7, Thomas 2-9, Thornton 0-1, Outlaw -7, Th

76ers 110, Knicks 106

33 28 23 26—110 26 30 24 26—106 Philadelphia 33 20 24 26—106.
Three-Point Goals—Philadelphia 9-14.
Three-Point Goals—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14). Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14), Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 45 (Chandler 14), Assists—Philadelphia 60 Carter-Williams 12), New York 14, New York 15, New Yo 28 (Hawes, Carter-Williams 7), New York 24 (Felton, Anthony 7). Total Fouls—Phil-adelphia 24, New York 24. Technicals— Philadelphia defensive three second, Anthony. A—19,812 (19,763).

Celtics 113, Wizards 111 (OT)

BOSTON — Green 14-26 3-5 39, Sull-inger 5-11 3-4 14, Humphries 3-10 2-2 8, Pressey 7-10 1-2 20, Wallace 2-4 5-6 9, Johnson 3-9 2-2 9, Bass 4-10 0-0 8, Olynyk 2-6 0-0 4, Anthony 0-10-00, Blue 1-2 0-2 2. Totals 41-89 16-23 113. WASHINGTON — Ariza 5-8 0-0 14, Nene

WASHINGTON — AFIZE 3-58 0-9 1-4, Netne 7-14 3-5 17, Gortat 4-8 3-5 11, Wall 9-29 10-13 28, Beal 7-16 0-0 14, Seraphin 2-3 0-0 4, Webster 3-9 1-1 10, Booker 4-6 1-1 9, Temple 1-1 2-2 4, Totals 42-94 20-27 111. Boston 32 29 15 23 14-113 Washington 22 21 30 26 12-111 There Point Gosles Boston 15-24

Washington 22 21 30 20 12-111 Three-Point Goals—Boston 15-34 (Green 8-16, Pressey 5-6, Sullinger 1-3, Johnson 1-6, Olynyk 0-1, Wallace 0-1, Humphries 0-1), Washington 7-22 (Ari-za 4-6, Webster 3-8, Wall 0-4, Beal 0-4). za 4-6, Webster 3-8, Wall 0-4, Beal 0-4), Fouled Out—Pressey. Rebounds—Bos-ton 57 (Sullinger 11), Washington 57 (Gortat 13). Assists—Boston 21 (Wal-lace 9), Washington 23 (Wall 10). Total Fouls—Boston 22, Washington 23. Tech-nicals—Hene. A—14,492 (20,308).

Raptors 93, Mavericks 85

DALLAS — Marion 3-11 0-0 6, Crowde 3 2-2 7. Dalembert 1-3 2-2 4, Caldero 2-3 2-2 7, Dalembert 1-3 2-2 4, Calderon 5-11 1-2 13, Ellis 9-18 1-2 21, Blair 4-5 0-0 8, Carter 3-7 1-1 8, Wright 5-7 3-5 13, Larkin 1-3 0-0 2, Harris 1-3 0-0 3, Ellington 0-2 0-0 0, Ledo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-73 10-14 85. TORONTO — Ross 1-7 0-0 3, Johnson 4-7

0-0 9, Valanciunas 3-6 6-8 12, Lowry 0-10 3-4 3, DeRozan 15-22 9-14 40, Salmons 1-4 0-0 3, Patterson 3-7 0-0 6, Vasquez 5-13 4-6 17, Hayes 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-76 22-32 93. Dallas 34 17 22 12-85

 ballas
 34
 17
 22
 12–85

 Toronto
 15
 31
 22
 25–93

 Three-Point Goals—Dallas 7-20 (Calderon 2-4, Ellis 2-5, Carter 1-2, Crowder 1-2, Harris 1-3, Larkin 0-1, Ellington 0-1, Marion 0-2), Toronto 7-23 (Vasquez 3-7, Johnson 1-1, DeRozan 1-1, Salmons 1-2, Ross
 son 1-1, DeRozan 1-1, Salmons 1-2, Ross 1-5, Patterson 0-1, Lowry 0-6), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 43 (Blair, Dalembert 7), Toronto 54 (Valanciunas 10). Assists—Dallas 22 (Ellis 6), Toronto 20 (Vasquez 7), Total Fouls—Dallas 24, Toronto 19. A—18,179 (19,800).

Hawks 112. Magic 109

orlande 1 18 24 29-109
Three-Point Geals-Atlanta 9-25 (Carroll 3-4, Teague 2-3, Korver 2-3, Millar
Allar 9-25 (Carroll 3-4, Teague 2-3, Korver 2-3, Millar
Mack 0-2), Orlando 6-12 (Lamb 3-4, Oladipo 2-2, Harkless 1-1, Affala 0-1, Nelson
Dounds-Atlanta 52 (Antie 12), Orlando
38 (Harris 12), Assists-Atlanta 12 (Kort
Total Fouls-Atlanta 13, Orlando 23,
Technicals—Carroll, Atlanta defensive
three second. A-16,713 (18,20)

Bobcats 95. Clippers 91

Bohcats 95, Clippers 91
LA CLIPPERS - Barnes 27 0-04, Grifni 120 56 27, Jordan 72 0-04, Grifni 120 56 27, Mullers 0-04, Grif0-02, Morris 1-3 0-07, Mullers 0-04, Grif0-04, Morris 1-3 0-07, Mullers 0-04, GrifCHARLOTTE - Kidd-Glichrist 37 72 28,
McGoberts 4-63 -44, Justices 13 72 28,
McGoberts 4-63 -44, Justices 13 72 28,
McGoberts 4-63 -44, Grif1-3 0-04, Tolliver 37 22 10, Byombo 0-0
90, Pargo 5 6 0-11, Totals 3-94 12-20,
90, Pargo 5 6 0-11, Totals 3-94 12-20

95. L.A. Clippers 25 24 21 21—91 Charlotte 26 22 24 23—95 Charlotte 26 22 24 23-95
Three-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 6-26 Inree-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 6-26 Collison 2-3, Crawford 2-8, Dudley 1-5, Collison 2-3, Crawford 2-8, Dudley 1-5, ris 0-2, Charlotte 5-15 (McRoberts 2-2, Colliver 2-5, Pargo 1-3, Douglas-Roberts 0-2, Sessions 0-3), Fouled Out–None. Rebounds—L.A. Clippers 50 (Jordan 20), Charlotte 56 (Jefferson 10), Assists—L.A. Clippers 24 (Griffin 6), Charlotte 22 (Sessions 8). Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 19, Charlotte 17. A—14,760 (19,077).

Bulls 98, Cavaliers 87

Bulls 98, Cavaliers 87
CHICAGO — Dunleave 91-4 0-022, Gibson 11.51-4-52, Non 19-7-3-9, Augustin 19-14-6-627, Bullet 4-12-12-10, Snell-61-0-0
0, Mohammed 1-5-0-0, James 1-2-0-0, One of the Mohammed 1-5-0-0, James 1-2-0-0, One of the Mohammed 1-5-0-0, James 1-2-0-0, Mohammed 1-5-0-0, Mohammed 1-5-0-0,



Ross D. Franklin/Al

The Suns' Ish Smith, left, beats the Pacers' George Hill, right, and lan Mahinmi for a basket Wednesday in Phoenix.

Roundup

Suns capitalize on poor Indy defense

The Associated Press

PHOENIX - The team with the NBA's best record had its worst game of the season Wednesday night.

The Phoenix Suns simply ran the Indiana Pacers and their vaunted defense off the court, 124-100.

It was the most points allowed by the Pacers this season and matched their most one-sided loss

The Suns snapped Indiana's five-game winning streak but was no cause for alarm, the Pacers' George Hill said.

"We spoil you guys with great defense," he said, "so when you do have a bad game you think the world is going to end."

The surprising Suns won their 24th game, one fewer than they did all of last season.

"Heck of an offensive performance by the Phoenix Suns,' Indiana coach Frank Vogel said. "Their shot-making was off the charts."

Gerald Green led the Suns with 23 points against his former team, not that it meant anything that special. Green's had a lot of former teams.

"This is my seventh team, man," he said. "I've been down this road before."

Indiana has the league's best record (33-8) and is the NBA leader in scoring defense and field goal percentage defense. But the Pacers were on their heels from the

"We knew they were going to come out with a lot of energy and play with a lot of energy," Indi-ana's Paul George said. "We just did a terrible job of responding to it. They just caught fire and once one of them fell, they all had that confidence to keep shooting."

Bulls 98, Cavaliers 87: D.J. Augustin scored 27 points in a start for Kirk Hinrich and Tai Gibson matched a career high with 26 filling in for Carlos Boozer as visiting Chicago improved to 7-2 since trading Luol Deng.

Augustin and Mike Dunleavy

hit three-pointers down the stretch to pace the Bulls, who at 21-20 moved over .500 for the first time since Nov. 22.

Thunder 111, Spurs 105: Kevin Durant had 36 points to offset Tony Parker's season-high 37, and the visiting Thunder survived a testy victory over the Spurs for their third win this season over the defending Western Conference champions

Reggie Jackson had 27 points and Serge Ibaka added 14 points for Oklahoma City (33-10), which reclaimed the West's best record.

Hawks 112, Magic 109: Paul Millsap had 24 points, Jeff Teague added 23 and the visiting Hawks hung on to beat the Magic.

Raptors 93, Mavericks 85: DeMar DeRozan scored a career-high 40 points, Greivis Vasquez had 17 and the host Raptors snapped a two-game skid by beating the Mavericks.

Bobcats 95, Clippers 91: Al Jefferson had 24 points and 10 rebounds to lead the host Bobcats to their first win over the Clippers in their last seven tries.

Celtics 113, Wizards 111 (OT): Gerald Wallace made a driving layup with 2.5 seconds remaining in overtime and the undermanned Celtics broke a 10game road losing streak with a win over the Wizards, who wilted yet again in their long and laborious quest to get above .500.

76ers 110. Knicks 106: Evan Turner scored a career-high 34 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, leading the 76ers to a victory over New York that snapped a three-game skid and sent the host Knicks to a fifth straight loss.

Rockets 119, Kings Dwight Howard and Ja James Harden combined for 50 points in just three quarters to help the host Rockets cruise to their third straight win.

Bucks 104, Pistons 101: Caron Butler scored 30 points and host Milwaukee rallied from a 13point deficit in the third quarter for a victory that snapped a ninegame losing streak.

NHL/AUSTRALIAN OPEN

NHL roundup

Tlusty lifts Hurricanes past Flyers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA Tlusty scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period to lift the Carolina Hurricanes to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

Nathan Gerbe had a high-light-worthy goal and Alexander Semin also scored for Carolina. which improved to 3-0 against Philadelphia this season.

Claude Giroux and Scott Hartnell scored for the Flyers, who lost for just the second time at home in their last 14 games.

Tlusty beat Flyers goalie Steve Mason from close range high to the glove side with 6:10 remaining for the game-winning goal. The game originally was sched-

uled for Tuesday, but was postponed because of a snowstorm that hit much of the Northeast. As a result, Carolina also moved its home game against Ottawa from Friday to Saturday in order to avoid playing on three straight nights. The Hurricanes play at Buffalo on Thursday.

Semin opened the scoring for Carolina with just over eight minutes left in the first period when he fired a wrist shot over Mason's glove hand into the top shelf. Neither team generated much offense in the opening period, as the Hurricanes outshot Philadelphia 8-3.

Each team scored once in the second period, with Gerbe putting the Hurricanes up 2-0 with a breakaway goal with 6:22 left in the period. Gerbe benefited from a mistake by Flyers defenseman Luke Schenn, who misplayed a pass back to the point and couldn't recover when the speedy Gerbe got behind him. He put the puck through his

legs and wristed it past Mason with his hands in an awkward position. Red Wings 5, Blackhawks 4

(SO): Darren Helm scored on his team's sixth attempt in the shootout and Jonas Gustavsson stopped Andrew Shaw's shot, lifting host Detroit past Chicago.

The defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks faced Detroit for the first time since beating them in overtime in Game 7 of their second-round series last year to complete a comeback from a 3-1 deficit.

Flames 3, Coyotes 2: Sean Monahan scored his team-leading 14th goal of the season and Matt Staian got the game-winner as host Calgary beat Phoenix and snapped its team-record sevengame home losing streak.

Penguins 5, Canadiens 1:

Jussi Jokinen scored twice and host Pittsburgh cruised past Montreal

Evgeni Malkin added a goal and an assist, Sidney Crosby picked up his 26th of the season and Taylor Pyatt added a rare score for the Penguins.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

A	Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	49	31	15	3	65	141	109	
Tampa Bay	50	29	16	5	63	146	123	
Montreal	50	27	18	5	59	127	125	
Toronto	50 52	27	20	5	59	150	156	
Detroit	50	22	18	10	54	127	138	
Ottawa	50	22	19	9	53	141	155	
Florida	50	20	23	7	47	120	151	
Buffalo	48	13	28	7	33	89	137	
Met	ropo	lita	n D	ivisi	on			
Pittsburgh	50	35	13	2	72	162	121	
N.Y. Rangers	52	27	22	3	57	131	133	
Philadelphia	51	25	20	6	56	139	147	
Columbus	49	25	20	4	54	143	138	
New Jersey	51	21	19	11	53	122	124	
Washington	50	22	20	8	52			
Carolina	49	21	19	9	51	120	139	
N.Y. Islanders				7		147		

Western Conference									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	52	32	8	12	76	188	144		
	49	33	11	5	71	171	115		
Colorado	49	31	13	5	67	144	127		
Minnesota	52	27	20	5	59	125	129		
Dallas		22		8	52	141	152		
Nashville	51	22		7		125			
Winnipeg		23		5	51	144	152		
	acifi	ic D	ivis						
Anaheim	52	37		5	79	177			
San Jose	50	32	12	6			123		
Los Angeles		29	16	6	64	131	108		
Vancouver	51		16	9	61	129			
	50	23	18	9		143	152		
Calgary	51	17		7		114			
Edmonton	52			6		132			
Note: Two points for a win, one point									
for overtime loss.									

wednesday's games Detroit 5, Chicago 4, SD Carolina 3, Philadelphia 2 Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 1 Calgary 2 Calgary 2 St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers Philadelphia at Columbus Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders Chicago at Minnesota Toronto at Dalina Nashville at Vancouver Nashville at Nashville at Vancouver Nashville at Vancouver Nashville at Vancouver Nashville at Vancouver

Los Angeles at Anaheim Winnipeg at San Jose Friday's games Washington at New Jersey Montreal at Detroit Colorado at Florida Nashville at Calgary Phoenix at Edmonton Saturday's games Ottawa at Carolina St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders Boston at Philadelphia

St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders
Boston at Philadelphia
Washington at Montreal
Colorado at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Columbus
Toronto at Winnipeg
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Anaheim vs. Los Angeles at Dodger
Anaheim vs. Los Angeles at Dodger

adium Minnesota at San Jose Wednesday

Penguins 5, Canad	ien	IS :	1	
fontreal	1	0	0-1	
ittsburgh	2	3	0-5	
First Period-1, Pittsburgh	n, Jo	kin	en 14	
Malkin, Niskanen), 8:48. 2,	Pit	tsb	urgh,	
yatt 2 (Niskanen, Martin)	. 16:	:25	(pp).	
Montroal Pourgue 7 (Pr				

17:40.
Second Period—4, Pittsburgh, Jokinen
15 (Maatta, Neal), 5:46. 5, Pittsburgh,
Crosby 26 (Letang, Kunitz), 11:43 (pp). 6,
Pittsburgh, Malkin 13 (Scuderi, Orpik),
15:02

Pittsburgh, Malkin 13 (Scugeri, Urpiro, 15:03.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 8-7:9–24.
Pittsburgh 9:14-8–31.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 3: Pittsburgh 2 of 5.
Goalies—Montreal (15:03 second, 10:10). Pittsburgh, Eley 28:11-1 (24:23).
A—18,617 (18,387). T—2:31.

Flames 3, Coyotes 2

Phoenix 0 1 1–2
Calgary 1 2 0–3
First Period—1, Calgary, Monahan 14 First Period—1, Calgary, Monanan 14 (Gallardi, Colborne), 11:44, Second Period—2, Calgary, Bouma 4 (Brodie, Ramo, 8:48. 3, Phoenix, Vermette 15 (Korpikoski, Stone), 12:27 (sh), 4, Cal-gary, Stajan 8 (Giordano, D).ones), 16:01. Third Period—5, Phoenix, Doan 14 (Yandle, Ribeiro), 6:50. Shots on Goal—Phoenix 11-13-8—32. Calgary 6:155—26.

Calgary 6-15-5-26.

Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 0 of 2; Calgary 0 of 2.

Goalies—Phoenix, M.Smith 17-15-8 (26

of 2; Calgáry 0 of 2. Goalies—Phoenix, M.Smith 17-15-8 (26 shots-23 saves). Calgary, Ramo 9-10-4 (32-30). A=19,289 (19,289). T=2:28.

Hurricanes 3, I	Flyers 2	
arolina	1 1 1-3	
hiladelphia	0 1 1-2	
First Period-1, Carol	lina, Semin 10	
E.Staal, Tlusty), 11:57.		
Second Period-2, Can	olina, Gerbe 10,	
3:38. 3, Philadelphia, G	iroux 14 (Vora-	
ek, Raffl), 19:25.	atable transcript	ı
Third Period-4, Philad		
2 (Simmonds, Giroux), 3	:00 (pp). 5, Car-	i

olina, Tiusty 7 (Sekera, Faulk), [3:50.

Shots on Goal—Carolina 8-8-16—32.

Philadelphia 3-12-9-24.

Philadelphia 3-12-9-24.

Philadelphia 3-12-9-24.

Philadelphia 1-0 12.

Goalies—Carolina, Khudobin 8-3-0 (24 shots-22 saves). Philadelphia, Mason 19-12-5 (32-29).

A—19,592 (19,541). T—2:20.

Red Wings 5, Blackhawks 4 (SO)

Chicago	2	1	1	0-4
Detroit	2	2	0	0-5
Detroit won sh				
First Period-1, Cl				
(Toews, Oduya), 8:41.				
14 (Kane, Saad), 10:26.				
(Br.Smith, Jurco), 11:1-				aves
2 (Abdelkader, Zetterb				
Second Period-5.	Chicao	0. 5	Sha	rp 26

Second Period—5, Chicago, Sharp 26 (Keith, Kane), 5:03 (pp), 6, Detroit, Quinc-ey 3 (Nyquist, Zetterberg), 6:20. 7, De-troit, Nyquist 7 (Zetterberg, Abdelkader), 11:14. Third Period—8, Chicago, Kruger 5,

5.12.
Shootout—Chicago 2 (Toews G, Sharp G, Shorp C, Shor

Leaders

Scoring				
acomi	GP.	G	Α	PT
nev Crosby, Pit	50	26	43	6
n Tavares, NYI	51	23	39	6
ın Getzlaf, Anh		25		5
rick Kane, Chi	52	23	35	5
ev Perry, Anh	52	27	28	- 5
Thornton, SJ	50	6	47	- 5
l Kessel, Tor		26		5
rick Sharp, Chi		26		5
e Okposo, NYI	51	20	31	- 5
Pavelski, SJ	50	27	23	- 5
rtin St. Louis, TB		25		5
is Kunitz, Pit	50	24	26	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
eni Malkin, Pit	39	13	31	5

ey in thorn in the state of the Jonathan Quick, LA Tuukka Rask, Bos Eddie Lack, Van Roberto Luongo, Van



TOM MINALEK/AP

The Carolina Hurricanes' Jiri Tlusty, left, scores the game-winning goal on a wrist shot past Philadelphia Flyers goalie Steve Mason in the third period of Wednesday's game in Philadelphia.

Wawrinka reaches first Slam final

By JUSTIN BERGMAN The Associated Press

MELBOURNE. Australia – Stanislas Wawrinka backed up his upset of four-time champion



Novak Djokovic by reach-ing his first Grand Slam final with a 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) win over Tomas Berdych in the Australian Open semifi-

nals on Thursday. Wawrinka ended a 14-match losing streak against Djokovic with a dramatic five-set, four-hour win in the quarterfinals, then followed that with a dominating performance against Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon finalist.

"I don't know what to say. I'm speechless," he said. "I didn't expect to make a final in a Grand Slam — tonight it's happening."

The eighth-seeded Wawrinka will meet the winner of Friday's semifinal showdown between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, the 33rd installment of their rivalry and the first at a Grand Slam since Nadal knocked Federer out of the Australian Open at the same stage in 2012.

Whoever he plays, Wawrinka will go into the final as an underdog. He has never beaten Nadal in 12 meetings, and has lost all but one of his 14 matches against his countryman, Federer.

"I take the confidence from my level in general," he said. "I know that I'm playing my best tennis.'

Wawrinka has long been in Federer's shadow as Switzerland's less-heralded No. 2, but he's been slowly gaining confidence in his game since losing a heartbreaking marathon match to Djokovic in Melbourne last year.

In April, he hired Magnus Norman as coach, a former Swedish player once ranked as high as No. 2. Since then, he's risen to a career-high No. 8 in the rankings and reached his first Grand Slam semifinal at the U.S. Open. Now he's taken the next step into the final of a major, where he could meet his good friend and sometime doubles partner, Federer.

Wawrinka said he received a text message from Federer on Wednesday night saying he was really happy there were two Swiss players in the semifinals of a major for the first time.

'I told him, 'For you it's normal, for me it's not normal," he joked.

Federer, who has reached his 11th consecutive semifinal at the Australian Open, said he'd love to see an all-Swiss final at Melbourne Park.

"Hopefully he can make it. Then he can put the pressure on me." Federer said after his quarterfinal win over Andy Murray on Wednesday.

Wawrinka jumped out to the



Stanislas Wawrinka serves to Tomas Berdych during their semifinal at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Thursday. Wawrinka won in four sets.

early lead against Berdych, getting the only break of the match when the seventh-seeded Czech player, looking tentative at the start, made several misses on his forehand before driving an easy overhead long.

With neither player giving anything on their service games after that, Berdych was the first to crack in the crucial tiebreakers. He double-faulted twice in the third-set tiebreaker, including on set point, and then again in the fourth-set breaker.

Little separated the two players in the match — Wawrinka won total 143 points to Berdych's 142 while they each made 49 unforced errors. The Swiss player served a little more consistently, though, facing only one break point in the

"It's really hard to find what could be the difference," Berdych said. "I mean, we both play great. We play a good match. Stan was the one that just took it and that's

The women's side also has a first-time Grand Slam finalist after Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova beat Agnieszka Radwanska in a 6-1, 6-2 rout in the semifinals earlier Thursday. She'll meet Chinese No. 4-seed-

ed Li Na, who reached her third final in four years at Melbourne Park with a 6-2, 6-4 win over 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard. In a women's tournament full of

results. Cibulkova's run has been the most dramatic. The diminutive Slovakian has won all but one of her matches in straight sets and only needed 70 minutes to win her first Grand Slam semifinal. "When you look at it this way

it is nice for me. I didn't spend so much time on the court," said Cibulkova, who also took out No. 3-seeded Maria Sharapova in the fourth round.

OLYMPICS

Training session leaves Miller's rivals awestruck

Dominating performance provides competition 'something to analyze'

By Eric Willemsen The Associated Press

KITZBUEHEL, Austria -Bode Miller led a training session for the classic Hahnenkamm race by a huge margin on Thursday. leaving his World Cup rivals in awe just 17 days before the Sochi Olympics downhill.

Miller was well ahead of the field from the first split time before finishing the challenging Streif course in 2 minutes, 2.93 seconds

Overall World Cup leader Aksel Lund Svindal came 0.96 back in second, while third-place Hannes Reichelt of Austria finished a massive 2.35 seconds behind the American.

"I've been focusing on this race all year," said Miller, who finished runner-up in 2008 and '11 but has vet to win the downhill in the Austrian resort. "I know it's hard to win here. I've put a lot of energy in being ready here ... And I think I had fast skis today, too. Obviously on this track you can't do much if your skis are not running."

Last year's winner Dominik Paris of Italy and Olympic downhill champion Didier Defago of Switzerland shared 10th, trailing Miller by 3.21 seconds.

> before urday's He is after crazv. he

raced a snow made killer line. earlier I tried that sible. line as well but I change just didn't bottom part of the course succeed. to avoid the

Italian skier

where snow conditions were still insufficient.

"I was higher through the Steilhang and exited it much better than where the tracks were," Mill-

It was the only training run Sat

mild temperatures softened the and runs this week impos-Organizers had to the

Christof Hausberg-Innerhofer kante, one of the marquee sections,

Miller mastered the steep upper section by choosing a different race line, allowing him to take more speed coming out of the Steilhang curve.



Bode Miller turned in a dominating effort on Thursday, leading an alpine ski men's World Cup downhill training session in Kitzbuehel, Austria by al huge margin and leaving his rivals in awe with just 17 days remaining before the start of the downhill competition at the Sochi Games.

er said. "The tracks were done before me, no one was up high where I was. That makes a huge difference. You cut off the line but you also carry speed onto the road.'

Miller drew praise from his competitors, who acknowledged they had been left with some homework before Saturday's race. "Bode was fantastic," Reichelt

said. "My run wasn't great and I am definitely going to watch a video of Bode's run.

His Austrian teammate Max Franz added "Bode had a very clean run. We have something to analyze."

Christof Innerhofer, who is chasing his first downhill podium of the season, said he was unable to ski like Miller did.

"He is crazy, he raced a killer line. I tried that line as well but I just didn't succeed," the Italian said. "I am not having a great season so far. But I felt well on the snow today and I want to attack here.'

Even Svindal, winner of two downhills and two super-G races this season, said he was going to study footage of Miller's performance.

"You know Bode can pull off that kind of thing," the Norwegian said. "When I think about my run, I am not surprised that someone can be a lot faster from the top. I wasn't able to stick to my plan because I got bumped out of my line. I have the speed but I need to clean up the first part. I will definitely watch Bode's run on video."

The changed bottom section caused many racers troubles. Where they usually go right into the Hausbergkante coming off a fast straight part, they now faced a sharp left turn left.

To Miller, it didn't make much of a difference.

"It's a different set of skills that's tested," the American said. "The cool thing is no one skies that so it's pretty even for everybody. No one has had a change to ever have a run like that so I think it's OK.

Noelle Pikus-Pace celebrates her secondplace finish after the women's Skeleton World Cup race in Innsbruck, Austria, on Friday, Pikus-Pace faced a difficult decision in returning to competition after suffering a miscarriage in 2012, but with the support of her family has returned to the top of her sport, finishing first in three of her past six races.

Family: Kids, husband joined Pikus-Pace on road to return

FROM BACK PAGE

There was always that little twinge of. 'Oh man, there's still a little bit more to " she said.

Pikus-Pace and her husband, Janson, processed their loss, prayed a lot — the two are devout Mormons — and discussed their options.

"A part of me wanted to continue on with my family, get pregnant really quick again, have another baby," she said. "But I knew emotionally I couldn't take it."

They decided to get back on the track but this time, do it as a family. She told her coach she would compete only if her husband and two children could travel with her, which presented a big financial challenge.

She figured a full season would cost about \$60,000 and was able to raise about \$25,000 on her own. About a week before she needed to board a plane, a Provo woman who had met Pikus-Pace and was touched by her story handed her a card with a \$30,000

They estimated the Olympic quest would cost about \$70,000 for the family this season, and after a strong showing a year ago, corporate sponsors ensured the entire family would be able to travel together.

That means they're on the road for five months out of the year. Janson took leave from his engineering job - he designed his wife's sled - and runs his wife's blog, where his profile lists him as "Mr. Travel Mom." He does regular posts, files photos and videos both in and out of competition, many of them featuring the entire family.

They left the United States last month and

are spending the World Cup season bouncing between Germany, Switzerland and Austria in the lead-up to the Olympics.

"You're in one place for a week," Janson said. "It's kind of like your suitcases explode everywhere. Then you pack it all up and you're off again.

Lacee, 5, is a kindergartner but her parents are keeping her well-stocked with books and activities. And 2-year old Traycen requires constant supervision.

"I had to make sure I could take any stresses or distractions off Noelle," Janson said. "My role is ultimately taking care of kids, taking care of the sled and taking care of anything else she needs.

Pikus-Pace said there's only one other regular mom who competes at the sport's elite level - British slider Shelley Rudman - but Rudman's family doesn't travel from

stop to stop.
"This is definitely something that's abnormal," Pikus-Pace said.

A typical training day sounds like it takes place in a cyclone. They all wake up early, and the parents prepare a quick breakfast.

"A bowl of cereal is going to spill on the floor," Pikus-Pace said, "you can count on that." She then hits the track for a couple of hours of runs before returning home for diaper changes and lunch. She leaves again for a three-hour workout followed by a couple hours of video review before returning for dinner and bedtime

"There aren't many moments in my day spent just on Facebook for fun or watching TV," she said. "I just don't do those things."

When the kids are asleep and life is mo-mentarily quiet, Pikus-Pace preps her sled for the next morning, polishing the runners and setting her goals for the next day, "Then I wake up and do it again," she said

"It is trying; I'm not going to lie," she said "It has its stresses."

But she certainly can't argue with the results. With family in tow, she has reached the podium in her past six races, including three first-place finishes. And in last season's final competition, an Olympic test event in Sochi, she won gold on the same track she'll try to conquer next month

Her latest win came last Saturday in St. Moritz, Switzerland, where she set a new track record. Pikus-Pace was mobbed by her family in a joyous celebration over the latest chunk of gold dangling from her neck.
"A necklace," as her 5-year old daughter
calls it. Then they packed up and hit the road for the next race in Austria.

OLYMPICS

Bylsma has own dream of hockey gold

By WILL GRAVES The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Like all the other hockey-playing kids in America 34 years ago, Dan Bylsma and his buddies had their own version of the "Miracle on Ice."

During those spirited reenactments of the U.S.'s upset of the Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympics, Bylsma didn't play the role of hero Mike Eruzione or goaltender Jim Craig. Instead, he opted for highflying winger Mark Johnson, who sealed the unlikeliest of gold medals with a late in-

surance goal against Finland in the final. "I dreamed about winning gold like I dreamed about winning the Stanley Cup,"

Bylsma said. He's halfway to achieving both, just not the way he imagined.

Nearly five years after etching his name on the Cup by leading the Pittsburgh Penins to a title in 2009, Bylsma will coach Team USA at the Sochi Olympics, looking to provide the kind of golden moment that will inspire a country much in the way he was inspired on that cold Friday in February

Though, if Bylsma is being honest here, he wasn't plastered to the television set as Al Michaels famously intoned "do you believe in miracles?" The game was broadcast on tape delay, and Bylsma was watching "Joker's Wild" when a ticker started running across the bottom of the screen to blare news of the improbable 4-3 victory by the Americans.

"I was like, 'Oh my god,'" Bylsma said. It won't take a miracle this time for the U.S. to reach the top of the podium in Russia, just the ability for a group of 25 relative strangers to find a way to play as a team during the two-week test the Olympics provides.

Enter Bylsma, who knows something about having a team click at the most opportune time.

He was a 38-year-old rookie coach in February, 2009 when the Penguins picked him to replace Michel Therrien. Pittsburgh's star-laden roster that included Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin was languishing.

The easy going guy from Grand Haven, Mich., nicknamed "Disco Dan" provided

The Penguins finished the regular sea-



GENE J. PUSKAR/AF

Pittsburgh Penguins coach Dan Bylsma, right, explains a drill to Evgeni Malkin during practice on Jan. 14 in Pittsburgh. The affable coach will try to lead Team USA to its first gold medal in 32 years next month at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

son 18-3-4 before edging the Detroit Red Wings in seven games to win the franchise's first Stanley Cup in 17 years. Press Bylsma on what stands out about that remarkable run and he mentions the initial meeting he had with the team after replac-

ing Therrien.
"We had a 10 a.m. meeting and a 2 p.m. faceoff," Bylsma said.

The Penguins fell in a shootout but Bylsma's personable approach — in stark contrast to the typically stern Therrien resonated in the dressing room.

The pressure eased, Pittsburgh took off. Team USA officials are hoping for a repeat in Sochi as the U.S. tries to make that one

final step after losing in overtime to Canada in the gold medal game four years ago. While Bylsma allows there are simi-

larities between the Olympics and what he faced during those first days in Pittsburgh, that doesn't mean it will be any easier when he gathers Team USA together next

"It's an uncomfortable thing for a coach," he said. "I'm just introducing myself to these guys right now.'

The fastest coach to 200 victories in NHL history is already the all-time winningest coach in Pittsburgh history. He surpassed Eddie Johnston's mark of 232 wins last week

When the franchise paid a video tribute to Bylsma during a stoppage in play in Wednesday night's game against Wash ington, the sellout crowd at Consol Energy Center rose to its feet.

The grinder who spent nine years in the NHL toiling on fourth-line shifts has become adept at handling highly skilled — and highly paid — players, a trait that should serve him well in Sochi.

"He's not shy by any means," Crosby said. "I think being able to communicate with guys well is important and kind of getting your point across as early as possible is important and it's something he excels



World champion tops US ski jumping team

The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — World champion Lindsey Van, who fought for women's ski jumping to be included in the Olympics, was nominated to the U.S. team headed to the Sochi Games.

The jumpers were announced Wednesday in Park City, where the team trains. The 29-year-old Van, who won the inaugural 2009 world championships, joins Olympic Trials winner Jessica Jerome, 26, and Sarah Hendrickson, 19 on the team that will debut the sport

"This inaugural Olympic women's ski jumping team has already inspired so many people around the world and will continue to do so for years to come," coach Alan Alborn said.

The men's team includes firsttime Olympian Nick Fairall, who won the Olympic Trials in Park City in December, as well as Nick Alexander, Peter Frenette and Anders Johnson.

It is Johnson's third Olympics. "The oldest team member is

Nick Alexander, and he's only 24. Taking all this into consideration I feel that we still haven't seen the best jumps from any of our young team members, and I'm looking forward to seeing them step up their game in Sochi and in the years to come," coach Clint Jones

The U.S Olympic Committee is set to formally name the entire U.S. team for Sochi on Jan. 27.

From left, Jessica Jerome, Sarah Hendrickson and Lindsey Van clown around Wednesday after being announced as members of the U.S. ski jumping team at the Utah Olympic Park in Park City, Utah.

SPORTS BRIEFS/GOLF

Briefly

Source: Browns to hire Pettine

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Browns are poised to make Buffalo defensive coordinator Mike Pettine their new coach, a person familiar with Cleveland's plans said.

Pettine was expected to visit the club for a third interview Thursday, the person said, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team is not commenting during its search.

Unless there are unanticipated hang-ups, Pettine will become Cleveland's seventh full-time coach since 1999.

ESPN, citing multiple league sources, said the team is expected to offer Pettine the job.

The Browns have been looking for a coach since firing Rob Chudzinski on Dec. 29. Team officials flew to Mobile, Ala, this week to interview Pettine, 47, who spent one season with the Bills after four as defensive coordinator of the New York Jets.

Pettine is one of at least 10 known candidates to interview with the Browns, who dismissed Chudzinski hours after the season finale in Pittisburgh. The club had been expected to have a second interview with Seattle defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, who is preparing for the Super Bowl. But things have progressed to the point that the team is focused solely on Pettine.

NFL rules Welker hit on Pats' Talib was legal

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The NFL's officiating chief has cleared Broncos receiver Wes Welker of any wrongdoing for his hit that knocked Patriots corner back Aqib Talib out of Sunday's AFC Championship. "It was a lead hit." Vice Presi-

"It was a legal hit," Vice President of Officiating Dean Blandino said on the NFL Network on Wednesday night

Wednesday night.

On Monday, New England coach Bill Belichick blasted Welker for the hit, calling it "one of the worst plays" he'd seen in nearly four decades of coaching. Without mentioning his former player by name, Belichick said it "was a deliberate play by the receiver to take out Aqib, no attempt to get open." He added, "I'll let the league handle the discipline on that play."

There will be no discipline for Welker; Blandino said there was simply no infraction of the rules.

Simply no intraction of the ruess. Welker, coming from the right, collided with Talib, who was running from the left to stay with his receiver, a split-second before Peyton Manning's pass went off the hands of receiver Demaryius Thomas a few yards away in the first quarter Sunday. No flag was thrown.

Talib left the game with a knee injury and didn't return, and Manning threw for 400 yards in Denver's 26-16 win that sent the top-seeded Broncos to the Super Bowl.

Given that an injury occurred, Blandino said he expects the league's competition committee to examine the play in the offseason "and determine if there needs to be a change. But under the current rules, this is a legal play."

LeBron, Durant head US roster pool

LeBron James and 10 others from the 2012 U.S. Olympic basketball team are remaining in the national team pool, joined by a group of newcomers hoping for their first chance at gold.

USA Baskethall selected 28 players Thursday to choose from for the World Cup of Baskethall this summer in Spain and the 2016 Rio Olympics. Carmelo Anthony was also chosen, giving him and James a chance to play in a fourth Olympics and win a third gold medal.

Also selected from the 2012 gold medalists were: Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, Kevin Love, James Harden, Russell Westbrook, Deron Williams, Anthony Davis, Tyson Chandler and Andre Ignodala.

Only Kobe Bryant, who has said he is finished with international competition, wasn't selected.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is back to lead the Americans, as he has done since 2005.

NASCAR switches to knockout qualifying

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR overhauled its qualifying process Wednesday, switching to a knockout format similar to Formula One and IndyCar

Drivers and track owners applauded the change, saying it will bring excitement to what had been a somewhat monotonous and often meaningless event.

The new format will not be used for the Daytona 500, nonpoints events in the Sprint Cup Series and the Truck Series event at Eldora Speedway in Ohio.

NASCAR will use three rounds of qualifying at tracks 1½ miles in length or larger. The entire field will have 25 minutes to post their fastest single lap and the top 24 advance to the second round.

The second segment will last 10 minutes and the fastest 12 will advance to a final, five-minute round. At tracks smaller than 14 miles, qualifying will be in two segments. The first will be 30 minutes, with the top 12 advancing to a 10-minute final session.



CHRIS CARLSON/A

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the sixth hole Wednesday during the pro-am at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.

Woods, Lefty kick off season

By Doug Ferguson The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods was alarmed, but not concerned, when shots into the green bounced nearly as high as the flagstick on the South Course at Torrey Pines.

The rough is thick, surpris-

The rough is thick, surprising only because it has been dry. It's usually only thick and heavy when it's cold and damp.

It almost reminded him of the U.S. Open.

"If they keep the golf course like this, it's going to be one hell of a test as the week progresses," Woods said Wednesday. "It's going to get really difficult to post some good numbers. It's going to be awfully difficult to get the ball close and make birdies. And as I said, it's closer to an Open right now than how I normally see it."

He usually does all right on firm, fast courses. He always seems to do well at Torrey Pines, where he has won eight times — including that 2008 U.S. Open.

"If find it good," he said."
Woods was set to make his 2014
debut on Thursday in the Farmer's Insurance Open, a tournament
that has been very good to him. He
is the star attraction, along with
San Diego native Phil Mickelson,
the two biggest stars of their generation. Mickelson is a three-time

winner at Torrey Pines.

They don't share the same outlook.

Outtook.

Woods and Mickelson were in the same group for that 2008 U.S. Open, the one in which Mickelson chose not to use a driver on a 7,643-yard course, which at the time was the longest in major championship history. Mickelson tied for 18th that week in the one major he has never won.

Mickelson loves Torrey Pines, a public course along Pacific bluffs where he played countless times as a kid. And he likes what having a U.S. Open did for his hometown, and the additional value it brought to Torrey Pines.

He just never liked what get-



Cupis Carl son/AF

Phil Mickelson grew up playing Torrey Pines as a kid, but didn't like the changes made to the course when the U.S. Open was held there in 2008.

ting a U.S. Open meant to the golf course — specifically bringing in "Open Doctor" Rees Jones to redesign it, lengthen it and beef it up to standards worthy of golf's toughest test.

Mickelson was asked if his results in the Farmers Insurance Open — not great — have been affected by his lack of fondness for the new South.

"I haven't won since it's been redesigned," he said after a few seconds of contemplation. "My feelings of animosity toward it might have been a factor as to why I haven't played well on it, but I have come close a few times. I've had a couple seconds that I can think of and I've learned to play it over the years, but it is not conducive to the way I like to play, which is aggressive.

which is aggressive.
"Every shot is repelled away from the tucked pins, every green breaks away from the bunker, every time you're in a bunker you've got a downhill shot. It's just monotonous to me and it doesn't allow for great recovery and it does not allow for gegressive play," he said. "It allows for 40 feet away from the hole and try to make a putt, take advantage of the par 5s."

Other than that, Mickelson was upbeat about his first PGA Tour event of the year (he was runnerup in Abu Dhabi last week on the European Tour). He loves his new driver, which he calls his favorite club. He's excited about his putting. He's more excited going into a year than any other time.

And he's excited about a U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2, not because of where it is but what it is.

Mickelson won the British Open last summer at Muirfield, leaving him one leg short of the career Grand Slam. That would be the U.S. Open, where he already holds the record for most silver

medals (six-time runner-up).
"I feel like ir's just a matter of
time," he said. "It may be this
year at Pinehurst, it may not, but
I do believe that will come. It's a
tournament I've played too well
in over the years not to mell
win, and I actually believe I'll win
a couple."

Now that's one thing they have in common. Woods also would love to win another U.S. Open this year. Actually, any major would do.

He has been stuck on 14 majors — four shy of Jack Nicklaus — since that '08 Open at Torrey Pines. It has become such a talking point that even though the Masters is 78 days away, Woods starting his 2014 year at a regular tour event is enough to prompt the question, "Will he catch Jack?"

So when asked if this was a big year in that regard, Woods offered a different view.

"Every year that I get a chance to compete and play in tournaments and major championships for as long as I decide to do it it. every year counts," he said. "Looking back from the beginning of my career to now, I know that I don't have 20 years in my prime. I don't see being 58 and being in my prime. Most guys don't dunk from the foul line at age 58, so it's a little different. But the outlook is still the same.

"I still prepare the same," he said. "I still work my tail off to be ready to compete at this level and beat everyone that I'm playing

Storm provides dress rehearsal

Crews see how quickly they can get rid of snow

By Tom Canavan

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

The NFL and personnel at
MetLife Stadium had a Super
Bowl pop quiz on snow removal
less than two weeks before the
title game between the Denver
Broncos and Seattle Seahawks.

The league and stadium officials decided to use a winter storm that dumped a foot or more of snow in the New York City metropolitan area Tuesday as somewhat of a dress rehearsal to see how quickly they could clean the 80,000-seat facility that will hold the first outdoor Super Bowl in cold weather.

NFL executive vice president Eric Grubman said Wednesday an 18-hour time limit was set for removing the snow from the stadium, surrounding parking lots and access roads in the Meadowlands sports complex, where the game will be played Feb. 2.

Grubman refused to speculate whether the storm that snarled roads, closed schools and had states of emergency in New Jersey, New York City and some surrounding areas would have caused the Super Bowl to be postponed. He said that would be a decision made by state authorities.

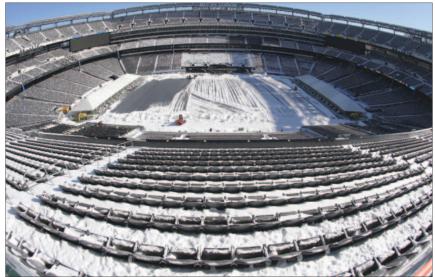
Grubman, however, said the league has several contingency plans for the game, including moving it up to Friday or Saturday, pushing it back to Monday or adjusting the scheduled start on Sunday to deal with the weather. The game is scheduled to start at 6:25 n.m. EST.

"Based on the long-range forecast, all that I would even hazard to guess is that it is probably going to be cold. I doubt we are going to have an unusual warm spell," Grubman said at the news conference originally called to showcase how the stadium was preparing for the Super Bowl.

The snowstorm on Tuesday was a fortuitous coincidence for the cold-weather Super Bowl.

MetLife spokeswoman Nicote Fountain said the stadium and its contractors had 1,300 workers removing the 13 inches of snow that fell in and around the stadium. The crews started removal around 8 a.m. and had sections of the stadium and most of the tarpcovered field cleared by noon.

During this past season, the crews removed six inches of wet, iced-packed snow in roughly 12 hours before a Seahawks-Giants game on Dec. 15. Ron VanDe-



JULIO CORTEZ/A

Work crews attempt to remove snow on Wednesday from the field at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., the site of Super Bowl XLVIII on Feb. 2 between the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos. The game has the possibility of being played in frigid conditions.



IIII O CORTEZ/AP

A football with the Super Bowl XLVIII logo is set on a mound of snow for an NFL photographer to take photos of it as workers shovel snow off the seating area at MetLife Stadium.

Veen, the stadium's senior vice president of events, said Wednesday. The snow being removed Wednesday was not as heavy, he Grubman said the league is prepared to play the game even if there is still some snow in the

"Games are played with snow

all the time," he said. "It's not use MetLife Stadium. I think the crowd will be an exceptional crowd and they will enjoy the game. I don't think they will be fazed by a little bit of snow on their seats, if that's what comes to pass. We aim to not have that happen, but if it happens, it's sort of what happens in NFL stadiums all the time."

Grubman also displayed warm welcome kits that fans will receive entering the stadium on game day. Cushions hold the kit items, which included ear and hand muffs, mittens, a hat, neck warmers, lip balm and other items.

"The warm welcome kit was designed to make fans comfortable," he said, "and to have those last-minute items that they may not think about."

Grubman also advised fans to dress in layers for the game. He said there will be warming areas in the stadium.

The storm that hit the area

Tuesday stretched from Kentucky to New England.

"If you are going to have one, and you are going to have it 10 days out, we're going to make use of it," Grubman said of the storm. "The silver lining is we are running ourselves through a rigorous dress rehearsal."

Grubman said the league was gathering information from law enforcement authorities about how the emergency conditions might have affected the game had

Did you know

If this year's Super Bowl sets the record for coldest temperature at kickoff, it will break the record of Super Bowl VI, played on Jan. 16, 1972 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans. The temperature that day was 39 degrees.

SOURCE: profootballhof.com

it been played Tuesday. The two groups will go over the information soon.

Whatever happens, the league is ready to deal with all scenarios, Grubman said.

"Some people will say perfection will be a nice little dusting of snow in the third quarter," Grubman said. "Other people will say perfection will be 40 degrees in early February with the sun shining until sundown at 5:35 or 5:45 or 6:20 on Sunday, the second.

"I think it is really up to the individual."

SPORTS



Warm welcome?

NFL uses snowstorm as opportunity to test Super Bowl readiness | Page 31

OLYMPICS

Face, and family, first

Pikus-Pace credits support system for Sochi return

By RICK MAESE The Washington Post n the Olympics, everything is measurable, and by now, Noelle

Pikus-Pace doesn't need any help

running the numbers. The differ-

ence between medal and disappoint-

ment: exactly one-tenth of a second. The

difference between retirement and being

"Having them there, they're my support system; they're my everything," said Pikus-Pace, a medal favorite next month in Sochi.

So much has changed for Pikus-Pace since the Vancouver Games four years ago. Then, she was just happy to make the Olympic team. She missed the 2006 Games after a runaway bobsled - 1,600 and traveling more than 60 mph - hit her during training. She was knocked about 30 feet in the air, and when she looked down, she saw bone protruding from her right leg - an Olympic dream deferred.

Given the substantial recovery, just reaching Vancouver felt like an accomplishment. After four strong runs there, she was less than a second removed from the gold medal of 0.1 seconds away from bronze

"I was happy," she says now. "Not satisfied but happy with my fourth-place finish'

She retired from the sport and set about growing her family, which already included a precocious young girl, Lacee, and boy, Traycen, who was born in 2011. She became pregnant again in 2012 and was 18 weeks in — she had just learned they'd be having another girl - when she suffered a miscarriage. The family was at a crossroads: try again or was there something else calling? Was Pikus-Pace

pursuing own golden

one of the world's top-ranked skeleton racers: one harrowing tragedy. And the difference between the upcoming Sochi Games and her previous two Olympic tries: an unusual and unrelenting really content to simply make an Olymsupport system. pic team? Pikus-Pace, 31, competes in a head-first sport — 80-SEE FAMILY ON PAGE 28 plus mph, sliding down a sheet of ice - and as she Inside: was deciding whether ■ US coach Bylsma to even take aim at another Olympics, she knew there was only moment, Page 29 one way to do it: She wanted her family ■ Miller dominates traveling with her, a downhill training, rarity on the globetrotting World Cup Page 28 Noelle Pikus-Pace ARNO BALZARINI, KEYSTONE/AP

Minnesota loses Hollins, still knocks off No. 9 Wisconsin | Page 25